Wednesday, May 4, 2011 | Vol. 36 | No. 145 | P18 | www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

45-MINUTE REALITY SHOW US President Barack Obama (second from left), Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Defense chief Robert Gates and other members of the national security team appear to be holding their breath in the Situation Room of the White House on Sunday in this photo released by the White House as they monitor live by video the 40-minute mission to take out Osama bin Laden. AP

Epic raid like spy thriller

Operation seen live via helmet cameras

WASHINGTON—From halfway around the world, President Barack Obama and his national security team monitored the strike on Osama bin Laden's compound in real time, watching and listening to the firefight that killed the terrorist leader.

Gathered in the White House Situation Room, members of the group held their breath and barely spoke as they waited to see whether a carefully crafted yet extremely risky plan would succeed, said White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan. Obama had been playing golf but returned to the White House for the suspenseful watch on Sunday.

Brennan said he would not reveal details "about what types

AL-QAEDA MASTER BEDROOM This frame grab from video obtained exclusively by ABC News on Monday shows a section of a mansion the 3rd floor in the compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, where al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was found and shot dead. AP

Secretive US Navy Seals shine

FLOORPLAN SCHEMATIC A drawing released by the US Department of Defense on Monday shows the compound where Osama bin Laden was killed in the early morning hours of Monday. The Navy Seals launched the raid on bin Laden from a CH-47D Chinook helicopter. REUTERS

WASHINGTON—Osama bin Laden's death on a ripped from a spy chief's

ter helicopter and 40-minute flight given a coveted seat of U.S. special operations forces bringing rights for what has become the most famous covert operation since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks launched on Bin Laden's orders.

The unit, called Navy Seal Team Six, probably won't claim the credit publicly, however.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, say only three Seal Team Six dropped in to the Laden's high-walled compound in Pakistan early Monday morning, sliding down ropes in the predawn dark. The military won't confirm which

US to probe support web in Pakistan

THE UNITED STATES would Monday it would probe Osama bin Laden's support network in Pakistan, raising tough questions for its antiterror ally after killing the al-Qaida kingpin in a daring raid.

Officials said DNA tests had proven conclusively that the man US special forces killed Sunday in the city of Abbottabad was indeed their wanted foe. Buried for the deaths of 3,000 people in the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001.

US President Barack Obama's

Bin Laden buried at sea to prevent his grave from becoming a shrine

WHITE HOUSE officials decided before Monday's firefight in northern Pakistan that if US troops killed Osama bin Laden, they would bury him at sea in order to prevent his grave from becoming a shrine for his followers.

They planned to include all steps associated with Muslim burials, John O. Brennan, US President Barack Obama's top counterterrorism adviser, said on Monday.

Brennan answered that the sea burial followed Islamic customs. He said the body was washed in accordance with the custom, placed in a white shroud, then put inside a weighted bag.

"The disposal of—the burial at Bin Laden's remains was done in strict conformance with Islamic precepts and practices," said Brennan, who added that the administration had consulted with Islamic experts.

"It was required in accordance with the Islamic requirements," he said. "We rarely or maybe never get involved in that type of burial, and we wanted to make sure that it was going to be done, again, in strict conformance. So it was taken care of

Osama hid in plain sight in Pakistan Army town

WASHINGTON—For years, the agonizing search for Osama bin Laden kept coming up empty. Then last July, Pakistanis working for the CIA drove up behind a white Suzuki navigating the bustling streets near Peshawar, Pakistan, and wrote down the car's license plate.

The man in the car was Bin Laden's most trusted courier, and over the next month CIA operations would track him throughout central Pakistan. Ultimately, administration officials said, he led them to a sprawling compound at the end of a long dirt road and encircled by tall security fences in a wealthy hamlet 60 kilometers from the Pakistani capital.

On a moonless night eight months later, 79 US commandos in four helicopters descended on the compound. The officials said. Shortly into the

X-MARKS THE SPOT: Cover of TIME's special edition.

take off. Pakistani authorities, kept in the dark by their allies in Washington, scrambled forces as the US commandos rushed to finish their mission and leave before a confrontation. Of the five dead, one was a tall, bearded man with a bloodied face and a bullet in his head. A member of the Navy Seals snapped his picture with a camera and uploaded it to analysts who fed it into a facial recognition program.

Just like that, history's

'Osama-Obama': Media struggle to get names right

By Christian K. Esguerra

IT'S TIME for "oops" moments.

As news about the killing of Osama bin Laden exploded through the mainstream and social media, reporters struggled to get the name

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WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

2-D	
11AM	16 26
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SUERTRES	
2PM	7 5 5
5PM	8 9 5
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MIX 6/49	
	5 5 9 4 4 7

ULTRA LOTTO 6/58	
	12 21 32 37 41 42
JACKPOT	P11,344,980.60
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	7 9 11 17 24 41
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P-Noy ratings down, says SWS

Aquino to raise Spratlys issue in Asean Summit

By DJ Yap

PRESIDENT Aquino will bring up the Spratlys dispute at the upcoming 18th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Summit, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The 18th Asean summit will see Aquino will express during the May 7-8 meetings in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Philippines' desire for "the effective and full implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC) in the South China Sea."

"It is the country's aspiration that this particular flashpoint be transformed into a zone of peace, friendship, freedom and cooperation," the DFA said in a statement.

The Philippines is among six countries with claims, wholly or partly, on the Spratly group of islands, a reputedly oil-rich chain of low islands and reefs in the South China Sea. The other claimants are Brunei, China, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

In 2002, countries with claims on the Spratly islands signed the DOC, enabling guidelines on how to tackle disputes.

Mr. Aquino has repeatedly stated the topic of the South China Sea conflict in meetings with regional leaders, including those of Singapore and Indonesia.

In March, two Chinese vessels allegedly harassed a Philippine seismic research ship on Reed Bank, prompting the Philippines to send a plane and some of its coast guard ships to the area.

Last month, the Philippines lodged a formal protest at the United Nations over China's claims to the Spratly islands and adjacent South China Sea waters, based on a map attached to a 2009 Chinese letter than it thought China's claims.

The President's will also push for Asean members' cooperation put forward after Noli on Bali off (BO-BO) Bilateral.

Asean is composed of Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

"It goes without saying that the success of the BOBO Bilateral is dependent on enhancing maritime security and maintaining the integrity of Asean's core issues," the DFA said.

The Philippines has strongly advocated the creation of a "nautical highway" through the BO-BO concept in addition to road connectivity as a template the "missing links" to the region.

EXCEPT in Metro Manila, public satisfaction with the Aquino administration fell sharply in the rest of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, according to the latest survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

Among socioeconomic groups, the drop in net satisfaction rating was highest in the upper and middle class (ABC). (Net satisfaction is the difference between the percentage of satisfied and those dissatisfied.)

The nationwide survey was conducted from March 4 to 7 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults. It had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points for national percentages.

Results of the survey were first published in BusinessWorld on Tuesday.

Compared with the survey in November, the administration's net satisfaction rating fell by eight points in the Visayas from 10 to 33, by 26 points in Mindanao from 67 to 47, and by 27 points in Luzon (excluding Metro Manila) from 0 to -42.

Up in Metro

In Metro Manila, however, the administration's net satisfaction rating went up by a point, from 49 to 50.

Nationwide, net public satisfaction with the administration's performance dropped 18 points to -10 in March from 64 to September and November last year.

Sixty-five percent of the respondents said they were satisfied with the administration's performance, fourteen percent were undecided and 18 percent were dissatisfied.

SWS considers a rating of 70 and above "excellent"; 50 to 69, "very good"; 30 to 49, "good"; 10 to 29, "moderate"; 9 to minus 9, "borderline"; minus 10 to minus 29, "poor"; minus 30 to minus 49, "bad"; minus 50 to minus 69, "very bad"; and minus 70 and below, "execrable."

Palace reaction

Reacting to the survey, presidential spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said it showed that the people recognized the administration's efforts on many "fronts," including curbing criminality and addressing national problems.

"We are confident that as the President's programs for keeping transport costs down, improving the efficiency of agriculture, generating investments and providing jobs further expand, the public will be reassured," Lacierda said in a statement.

"In a month, it is important to note that satisfaction with the administration remains at near record levels," he said.

By socioeconomic class, the administration's net satisfaction rating plunged 41 points among the upper and middle class (ABC). It dropped by 18 points among the working class (D and E) and by 21 points among the poorest class (E).

SWS also asked respondents if they were satisfied with the administration's performance on specific issues.

Of the 11 issues tested, the administration scored "good" on 7, "moderate" on 4 and "mixed" on 2.

The administration garnered "good" ratings in helping the poor (45), foreign relations (44), setting a good example of morality (44), being prepared for natural disasters (43), [illegible]

Reconciliation with Muslim rebels (41), reconciliation with communist rebels (21) and implementing housing programs for the poor (16).

Moderate scores

The administration obtained "moderate" scores for fighting terrorism (29), suppressing politicians with private armies in Maguindanao (24), dealing quickly on important problems (22), acting according to what people want (19), fighting crimes (16) and eradicating graft and corruption (14).

The Aquino administration scored "mixed" scores on ensuring no hunger (5) and fighting inflation (6).

It scored notable gains in setting a good moral example (up 47 points from the last time it was surveyed in March 2010). *Reports from Inquirer Research and Christine O. Avendaño*

No thanks; Leila won't apply for Merci's job

By Jerome Aning

JUSTICE Secretary Leila de Lima yesterday said she would not apply for, and will decline any nomination to be the next Ombudsman or a justice of the Supreme Court.

"I'm still beginning [my stint] here at the Department of Justice [DOJ]. There's a lot of problems and challenges facing us. I had it would be more fulfilling for me to be here, so I will decline any nomination," De Lima said in a press conference.

She said her being DOJ chief gives her a wider jurisdiction than the Ombudsman, who is only mandated to go after erring public officials.

When told that some sectors were considering nominating her to the Supreme Court, she replied in jest: "I'm too young for it. The Supreme Court is too cluttered. Can you imagine me being unable to speak [about to issue] it's not up to us."

The Secretary distributed to reporters a paper summing up her position on the tests of the next Ombudsman following the resignation of the incumbent, Merceditas Gutierrez, effective May 6.

Whoever succeeds Gutierrez, the Secretary said in her paper, should serve a full seven-year term in compliance with the Ombudsman Act of 1989. She said the appointee would serve a full seven-year term "regardless of his/her or not the previous Ombudsman before him has served a full seven-year term."

She said she distributed copies of her position paper on the issue at the meeting of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), where she is a member. "No one expressed a contrary opinion. No one objected to there was a consensus," she said.

De Lima explained that because in the Office of the Ombudsman are different from constitutional bodies such as the Commission on Elections, Commission on Audit and the Civil Service Commission.

In the commission, a seat may be filled by more than one person if the incumbent resigns, is impeached, dies or becomes permanently incapacitated before his/her/his term, with the successor serving out only the remainder of the fixed term, she said.

This was not the case in the Office of Ombudsman, according to De Lima. That is why when Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo quit in November 2009, without finishing his seven-year term, he was replaced by Gutierrez who was supposed to serve a fresh seven-year term ending in Merceditas's mid-year.

De Lima also said that based on the history of appointments to the Office of the Ombudsman, the incumbent is deemed to have begun a seven-year term on the day of his or her appointment.

Censors board suspends Willie

By Rayzel San Diego Jr.

THE MOVIE and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has suspended the TV5 game show "Willing Willie."

The show has been under fire from child rights advocates over a March episode in which a 6-year-old boy was made to perform a number that was described as "macho dancing" or a striptease while wore tube-tied down his cheeks.

The MTRCB had been investigating the matter the past month and came out early to declare probation.

In the decision, the MTRCB's adjudication committee found that the show's "violation of Section 3 (c) of Presidential Decree 1986" warranted a 30-day suspension."

Time served

The MTRCB, however, said it was "crediting the period of its voluntary suspension"—from the time the show voluntarily took itself off the air on April 9—[This could mean Willing Willie would be back by May 9.]

The ratings board also declared the program on probation, meaning it would have to apply for a permit to air on a per-broadcast basis.

The probationary period would last "until the board is convinced [TVS's] self-regulatory measures had actually been undertaken and implemented."

Jonathan Presquito, MTRCB legal counsel, explained: "Every day, the show will have to apply for a permit so the board can check whether the changes had been instituted."

MTRCB Chair Mary Grace Poe Llamanzares clarified: "They need to be able to demonstrate that they are serious about their proposed changes. The probationary review allows us to monitor the show's progress and at the same time hopefully preserve a repetition of the incident. It serves in protect both the network and the viewers."

The board made clear it was the show and the network that were being penalized, not the program's controversial host, Willie Revillame.

Options open

Noel Cid Prado, adjudication commission chair, said: "Based on the 2009 Supreme Court decision, Soriano v Laguardia, the MTRCB's jurisdiction does not extend to TV personalities and can only cover programs and networks. That was the proceeding against a talent or host."

For his part, Revillame's lawyer, Leonard de Vera, said: "We reserve the legal option to file a motion for reconsideration of the MTRCB's decision. We are, however, comforted by the MTRCB not having found that Willie or the program or TVS had committed acts of child abuse or exploitation or child cruelty."

In a statement, De Vera said the "probation on a per episode per bid basis" only meant that TVS would provide the MTRCB a video copy of the show's previous episode during the probationary period.

He said it didn't mean the MTRCB would have to pre-approve each episode of the show as Willing Willie is aired live.

In a brief statement, TVS said: "We are reviewing the decision with our lawyers and will issue a statement in due course."

With a report from Marimel Ong

Pilar's companion charged with kidnap

By Nitz Cabico and Marian Ramos

THE MISSING companion of Tyler O'Boyl who is now a suspect in the abduction and slay at range on the veteran movie actress has been charged with kidnapping and fratricide murder.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) yesterday filed charges of kidnapping and fratricide murder at the antipolo prosecutor's office against Rand Delos, a guitarist of D-Impl's husband, Bernie Delos.

The CIDG has included in the charge sheet the two unidentified men who allegedly grabbed and left the actress for dead at the foot of a hill in Antipolo shortly before midnight on April 14.

Chief Supt. Samuel Ingalline Jr., the CIDG director, said the CIDG filed the case against Delos for "intentionally using deception" in inviting Pilapil to join her on the night of the attack.

Witnesses also showed that Delos fabricated stories which led to the conclusion that she had acted in conspiracy with the two suspects, if not had masterminded the attack on Pilapil," Ingalline said in a statement.

According to the CIDG's investigation and summary of the case, Delos, who has resided in BLQ Condo Dormitory, 8 Gamma St., Sampaloc, Manila and C-3 201, 201, Quezon St., Kingston, Taguig, picked up Pilapil at the Robinson's Galleria Mall in Pasig at around 9 p.m. on April 14. She was reportedly driving a Kia Carens (CD-8881).

When the news about Pilapil's abduction and stabbing first broke, Delos was reported to be Pilapil's companion that the suspected car thieves may have kidnapped.

A week later, however, investigators made a 180-degree turn and egged the women as a suspect.

The CIDG is certain that Delos conspired with Pilapil's attackers because of her allegedly fabricated stories.

It said Delos' husband and D-Impl's brother-in-law, Nelson Delos, had entrusted his life with dad and knew the security to any time contrary to the story she gave Pilapil.

This claim was confirmed by travel records from the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) and the statement of Security Mitigation Alvarez, the landlady at BLQ Condo Dormitory, where Delos has been staying since Nov. 8, 2010.

Nelson also told police that he was with his wife on April 15, a day after the attack, and it was Rand Delos who had picked him up in the airport in the Kia Carens car, the same car that the armed men used to flee after dumping the injured Pilapil in the Pedro Blanco Subdivision in Antipolo.

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ASIAN PUBLISHERS

Members of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA) join the Asia Pacific press for a photo during the recent Publish Asia 2011 conference in Bangkok. Each member gets updates about their respective print and digital industries. They are (from left, standing): Keith Kum, Ming Pao Enterprise Corporation Ltd; Yeh Wen-hsiu, The Journal Asia Daily News; Thomas Jacob, WAN-IFRA; Majid Jawaria, PT Jawa Pos Koran Nasional, Philippine Daily Inquirer; Ibrahim Jalaluna, Harian Berita Publishing Corp; Joseph Hung, The Jiaxing Jing Daily News; Christoph Riess, WAN-IFRA; Li Shenping, Dowd; Gerung Ivan Budi Prize Group; sat (leg, from left): Jacob Mathew, Malaysia Nanyang Company Ltd; Tan Sri Mohamed Hashim Ahmad Makarudin, Utusan Malaysia (Malaysia) Bhd; Pichai Chaowanawatt, The Post Publishing Public Co Ltd; Nita Sisi, Sin Chew Media Corporation Bhd; Agung Adiprasetyo, PT Kompas Gramedia; Dai Yaping, Guangzhou Daily Press Group.

Probe of Merci's 'landmines' sought

By Jocelyn R. Uy

LAWYER Maceo Reyes yesterday asked the government to investigate the "eleventh-hour appointments" of Merceditas Gutierrez, who resigned last week as the country's Ombudsman.

"Before she and Deputy Ombudsman Mark Jolumbrez resigned, they assigned some people to [critical positions] who can manipulate the cases filed before the Office of the Ombudsman," claimed Reyes in the weekly forum hosted by the Catholic Media Network in Intramuros yesterday.

Reyes is the legal counsel of an anti-graft advocacy group, Ilocos for People Movement.

Jolumbrez had quit his post as Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon early last month following several complaints filed against him before the Office of the President for alleged dishonesty and grave misconduct, usurpation of authority and falsification of documents, Reyes added.

Reyes claimed that Gutierrez, before she stepped down on Friday, issued resolutions reviewing positions for at least eight people in the anti-graft body without the approval of the Department of Budget and Management.

At least four people were appointed as assistant Ombudsmen, he said.

Reyes feared the new appointees were "like landmines and silent agents of Gutierrez and Jolumbrez."

Lawyer Stephen David said these appointees were holding "strategic positions" in the anti-graft body.

"An assistant ombudsman[may still] control the investigation so in the end, the Ombudsman will only review the recommendations they submit," said David.

The lawyers said they have already submitted a report to Malacañang on the supposed "midnight appointments" of Gutierrez.

If the government, particularly the Office of the President, fails to look into this anomalies, Gutierrez's replacement will be faced with obstacles in investigating and filing corruption cases involving former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her allies, said Reyes.

"The new Ombudsman will have a big problem because Gutierrez 'left behind' landmines in the office," added Reyes on his secretary general Rosario Reyes, also during the forum.

STATEMENT OF THE LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE ASSASSINATION OF HONORABLE CALBAYOG CITY MAYOR REYNALDO S. UY

Last Saturday, April 30, 2011, an unidentified gunman shot dead Calbayog City Mayor Reynaldo S. Uy. According to police reports, the said gunman shot the city mayor while sitting at the presidential table along with some Samar mayors and officials during a fiesta celebration in the town of Hinabangan. Mayor Uy was immediately rushed to the Divine Word Hospital in Tacloban City but was later declared dead.

The members of the League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) are shocked and saddened by the assassination of our colleague, Mayor Reynaldo S. Uy, and condemn this senseless act in the strongest terms possible.

We call on the Philippine National Police to act with urgency and determination to solve this crime and bring the perpetrators to justice. We also call upon the authorities to swiftly arrest all those involved in this incident including those who are part of the plot of this merciless attack.

We further call on any members of the community who may have any information on this case to come forward so that these criminals will face the full might of the law.

This kind of violence has no place in a civilized and democratic society like ours.

We extend our deepest sympathies and condolences to the Uy family, to his friends and comrades for the loss of their loved one and to the people of Calbayog City who had lost a passionate public servant.

Fil-Am activist protests CHR clearance of AFP in abduction

By Leila B. Salaverria

[redacted]-SHIELD called Melissa Roxas formally contested yesterday the Commission on Human Rights' (CHR) finding earlier that the military was behind the incident.

Roxas, through her lawyers led by Edre Olalia, filed a motion for reconsideration in the CHR dispelling the latter's findings and asserting that the case does not belong with it but the agency.

Earlier, the CHR said there was not enough proof to show that members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines had abducted Roxas and tortured her when she was in the country in 2009, and that it had information to the contrary pointed to the communist New People's Army as actually being responsible for the abduction.

Based on evidence

CHR Chair Loretta Rosales had said the commission's findings were based on the evidence at hand, and that its investigation was neither ad hoc nothing more than the desire to find the truth.

In her resolution, Roxas listed the witnesses in her testimony that she contended, showed she was abducted by the military.

These were her detention in a small prison with bars and, later, in a room with beds and lockers; being interrogated in different rooms; hearing airplanes taking off and landing, and guardians as if from a flying target; seeing a case in military fatigues; being forced to admit she was a member of the New People's Army and ordered repeatedly to correct allegiance to the Philippine government; and being told by her interrogators that they were members of a military special operations group and that she was in their custody.

She said her description of the place where she was held pointed to facilities that could only be found in a military camp. The pattern of her abduction, as well as of her interrogation and torture, also pointed to the armed forces, she said.

She took note of a ruling by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—which was cited in a Supreme Court case—where Dr. Hilda L. Soliz vs Dimas Ortiz, was found to have been abducted and tortured by Guatemalan state agents based on her consistent and credible testimony. The victim's clairvoyant vision also supported by her recognition of portraits of the exact thief her abductors had taken.

No evidence of NPA angle

Roxas said that, as in Ortiz's case, she could not be expected to provide a precise description of the place where she was detained and tortured, since it was enough that she had established it through credible circumstantial evidence.

She also said the CHR, rejecting evidence to allegations that the New People's Army was behind her abduction, had practically cleared the military of any responsibility. She said the CHR took the NPA angle even though its report did not present any evidence to support this finding.

Roxas said she was done to being disillusioned by the CHR.

Oil firms raise prices yet again

By Amy R. Roma

LOCAL oil companies have again raised the prices of premium gasoline by P1.40/L this P1 a liter for regular gasoline and 50 centavos a liter for kerosene, starting yesterday.

Consumers were yet again caught unawares by the new round of increases as the oil firms—Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Phil., Petron Corp. and Total Phil.—only made the announcement on the same day that the new prices come into effect.

But independent player Eastern Petroleum implemented the same price increases only today. It said the latest adjustment was because of rising oil prices in the global market, particularly for the Mean of Platts Singapore benchmark for refined petroleum products.

It was the 15th time since the start of 2011 that oil firms have raised fuel prices, the increases totaling more than P1.143-per liter for premium gasoline and P10.50 a liter for diesel.

Only the overdue increase implemented during the rates period, the amount paid in compensation, or P1.75 a liter for gasoline and 65 centavos for diesel.

The Department of Energy has yet to release its report about current levels of fuel prices in the local market, following the latest price hike.

Meanwhile, the distribution of the fuel stock cards under the P450-million Pantawid Pasada fuel subsidy program will resume today and continue until all the cards have been distributed, the DOE said.

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Inauguration of Radial Road 1 Extension Project of the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway

From Left to Right: DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson, Ms. Jennifer E. Bote, Director & President of UEM-Mara Phils. Corp., His Excellency Pres. Benigno 'NoyNoy' Aquino III, Mr. Luis Juan 'Buboy' Virata, Chairman of UEM-Mara Phils. Corp., Atty. Jose Luis 'Bobet' L. Vera, DBP Director and former Director of UEM-Mara Phils. Corp., Mrs. Ruthy C. Vera, UEM-Mara Phils. Corporate Treasurer and Mr. Carlos 'Do' Ejercito, former Director of UEM-Mara Phils. Corp.

Corrections

IN THE APRIL 19 ISSUE, a header Lifestyle article on Page G1—"Father's Search on the female cord"—and in the crossreel of the Lord"—misspelled the surname of a hunter. His name is Dawn De La Hera—not Jera.

* * *

IN THE MAY 3 ISSUE, an article on Page A3—"PAL names new head of office pending appointees"—misstated that the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. is a client of Sarmido Mahinda Bautista-de Jesus, & De Los Angeles Law Office. The firm's expatriates as counsel for Piatco was terminated on April 15, 2011.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors or wording to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Building, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, 5th Building, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor, 5th Building, Makati City, fax (02) 897-8783; e-mail address: dayde@inquirer.com.ph

Corrections whose lack of publication or shortcomings may be sent to the Publisher, e-mail address: pcandoy@inquirer.com.ph or fax (02) 897-8783 or (02) 896-2646 Publisher, fax phone number (+687-4888 local 888).

L. B. de Javellana; 87

LUCINDA Barrera de Javellana of Roxas City and Makilala City died on April 30 at the age of 87. She was the widow of Manuel Javellana.

She is survived by her children Rainen and Arlene, Fr. Rene S.J., Rodolfo, Jess and Celia Pilares, Stella and Nelly Garcia, and Cristy and Lito Lozin, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and relatives.

Her cremated remains are at the residence at Baked and Fraggle Streets, Mount Vista, Makilala. They will be transferred to the Chapel of the Good in the Arenas de Manila Memorial complex in Loyola Heights. Interment will be on May 7 at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 4 p.m. Mass.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

MAY 4 (Wednesday)
Psalter Week 2
2nd Week of Easter
Ps 16:1-2, 5-6, 8-7, 4-8
The Lord hears the cry of the poor.

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7

The High Priest and all his supporters, that is the party of the Sadducees, became filled with jealousy. They arrested the apostles, threw them into the public jail and had them overnight in jail. But an angel of the Lord opened the doors of the prison during the night, brought them out, and said to them, "Go and stand in the Temple area and tell the people the whole message about this new life." Accordingly they entered the Temple at dawn and resumed their teaching.

When the High Priest and his supporters arrived, they called together the Sanhedrin, that is the full Council of the elders of Israel. They sent word to the jail to have the prisoners brought in. But when the Temple guards arrived at the jail, they did not find them inside, so they returned with the news, "We found the jailers securely locked and the prison guards at their posts outside the gate, but when we opened the gate, we found no one inside."

Upon hearing these words, the captain of the Temple guard and the high priests were baffled, wondering where all of this would end. Just then someone arrived and announced, "Look, those men whom you put in prison are standing in the Temple, teaching the people." Then the captain went off with the guards and brought them back, but without any show of force, for they of being stoned by the people.

Gospel Jn 6:16-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Yes, God so loved the world that he gave not only his one Son whenever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned. He who does not believe is already condemned, for he refuses to believe in the name of the only Son of God.

"This is how the judgment is made: light has come into the world and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. Anyone who observes vile wrong hates the light and doesn't come to the light for fear that his deeds will be shown to evil. But whoever lives according to the truth comes into the light to show it can be clearly seen that his works have been done in God."

Reflection:

The greatness of love is not in its being up to us to be loved but its capacity to give. It is the power of turning a part of the beloved to make for the beloved to live a meaningful life. The Savior loved his Son and the Son loved his Father. Their separation was a cause of divine pain if such can exist. Yet it never stopped them to be good to each other. The price of our salvation is the unspeakable physical separation of those we whom love and bond is deeper than we could ever imagine. That is a precious we are called. The Son and the Father paid the price of such loving commitment to their creatures. He should never doubt our salvific company love or not.

Gospel Immaculate Academy, Inc. a division of CP Hiray Services, Quezon City, (02) 929-7741 • Editorial: (02) 929-7741 local 30, fax (02) 929-7741 local 30, e-mail: info@gospelimmaculate.com, website: http://www.gospelimmaculate.com. Gospel Immaculate is a Philippine Catholic Publication. Other publications of Gospel Immaculate are Gospel Immaculate Kids and Gospel Immaculate Missalette.

What happens now to the $27-M Osama bounty?

NOW THAT Osama bin Laden is dead, what happens to the $27 million bounty on his head?

The US government through its State Department's Rewards for Justice Program, had offered a $25-million reward for any information on Bin Laden, while an additional $2 million had been raised privately by the Anthos Fikos manufacturing and Air Transport Association.

According to officials of US President Barack Obama's administration, unidentified detainees provided key information on Bin Laden.

But an article by CNNMoney.com says it is not unclear if the reward money, whether wholly or partly, has been given to anyone. The US State Department is not talking.

State Department spokesperson Heida Palkovich Nuland told CNN that "given the importance of confidentiality ... we can't comment on whether or not anyone's been nominated for a reward."

$30M for Saddam's sons

Another spokesperson for the State Department, Stacy Schenck, told CNN-Money.com that "the department does not personally discuss nominations for awards."

It is also possible that no reward money will be granted, CNNMoney.com said.

Separately, however, have been granted for the capture of other most-wanted terrorists. The largest reward ever paid was $30 million for information on Uday and Qusay Hussein, sons of Iraq's late Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

Bin Laden, the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, described as the worst terrorist attack in US history, has been part of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives since June 1999, according to ccligraph.co.uk.

Sources: CNNMoney.com, news.yahoo.com, telegraph.co.uk, jfk.gov

Secretive US Navy Seals starring in 'mission impossible'

From page A1

unit carried out the attack.

But the head of the Navy Seals, Rear Adm. Edward Winters, sent an e-mail congratulating his forces and warning them to keep their mouths shut.

"We extremely careful about operational security," he added. "The fight is not over."

The quiet professionals

Made up of only a few hundred forces based in Virginia, the elite Seal unit officially known as Naval Special Warfare Development Group, or "DEVGRU," is part of a special operations brotherhood that calls itself "the quiet professionals."

Seal Team Six raided targets outside **war zones like Yemen and Somalia in** the past three years, though the unit **operates primarily in Afghanistan**.

The unit is overseen by the Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), which oversees the US Army's Delta Force and other special units. JSOC's combined forces have been responsible for a quadrupling of counterterrorism raids that have targeted militants in second members over the past year in Afghanistan. Some 4,000 elite special operations forces and support units have been part of the surge of US forces there.

CIA Director Leon Panetta was in charge of the military team during the covert operation, a US official said. While the president can empower the Seals and other counterterrorism units to carry out covert actions without CIA oversight, US President Barack Obama's team put the intelligence agency in charge, with other elements of the national security apparatus answering to them for this mission.

Seal Team Six actually works as often with the intelligence agency that it's sometimes called the CIA's Praetorian Guard—a partnership that started in Iraq, as an outgrowth of the Union of special operators on how to end intelligence to the basic he militants there.

Seals and Delta both, commanded by then special operations chief Gen. Stanley McChrystal, learned to work much like FBI agents, first attending a target, killing or capturing the suspects, and then gathering evidence at the scene.

Seals and Delta Force

McChrystal described it as building a network to chase a network, where the special operations forces work with intelligence analysts such as a joint base. The raiders, he said, could collect valuable "pocket litter" from the scene, like documents or computers, to exploit to hunt the next target.

The battlegrounds of Iraq and Afghanistan had been informally divided, with the Seals operating Afghanistan and the US Army's Delta Force combining the bulk of the operations in Iraq, though there was overlap of each organization. There is considerable professional rivalry between them.

DRAGGING RIGHTS: A US Navy Seal suppords from per PHH-60 "Pave Low" helicopter to the deck of the amphibious command-ship USS Mount Whitney during a training exercise at sea. (AFP)

Delta Force units caught Saddam Hussein late in 2003, and had killed his sons Uday and Qusay in a shoot-out in Mosul earlier that year. The race to be the unit that captured Bin Laden had been on ever since.

"Officially, Team Six doesn't exist," says former Navy Seal Craig Sawyer, 47, who advises Hollywood and acts as movies about the military.

Failure not an option

After undergoing a six-month process in which commanders scrutinized his every move, Sawyer says he was selected in the 1990s to join the team.

"It was like being recruited to an all-star team," he said, with members often gone 300 days a year, only finding about three years of the team before leaving unit.

"They train around the clock," he said. "They know that failure will not be an option. Either they succeed or they don't come home."

Other special operations units jobs that "Seal" stands for "Sleep, eat, lift," though the terrorist really stands for Sea, Air, Land.

Most important mission

"The Seals will be the first to remind everyone that the 'I' in Seal stands for land," says retired Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal, former commander of US Special Operations Command in Tampa, Florida. "They have skills on the land equal to their skills at sea."

Rowan, who led the command from 2003 to 2007, said the operation against Bin Laden was the most significant mission conducted by US commando forces since the organization was formed in 1987 in the wake of the failed attempt in 1980 to rescue the American hostages in Iran.

"I can't think of a mission so unusually important," Rowan said.

The last time the public was made aware of a Seal raid on Pakistani soil was 2008, when the raiders flew only 2 kilometers over the border to the town of Angoorada, according to Pakistani officials. The high-ranker reports the Americans had been told were there had fled, and those left behind in the compound fought back, resulting in a number of civilian casualties.

While the United States usually does not comment on covert actions, especially ones that go wrong, the 2008 incident was caught on mobile phone video, so they confirmed it and apologized publicly, US officials said.

DEVGRU is the same unit that rescued an American ship captain, Richard Phillips, held hostage on a lifeboat by Somali pirates after his cargo ship from the USS Maersk Alabama in 2009. A DEVGRU unit fired precision shots from the rocking stern of a friendly ship, killing three of four pirates. AP

"The 'pan' is many hungry persons best friend. It's that good old standard that never runs out to pork in our days. Aside from its nutritional value, it's good to know that many bits of whole wheat and other healthy breads may help reduce the risk of cancer, diabetes, and heart disease as it absorbs and lowers cholesterol. Best of all it gives us the energy to last the day.

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U.S. WHEAT ASSOCIATES

Rains boosted rice stocks, says agri chief

By Kristine L. Alave

THE UNUSUALLY wet weather in the first quarter of the year has boosted rice stocks tremendously, said Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala yesterday, adding that the palay output for the first half of 2011 may be the highest on record.

Alcala said a "record-high paddy rice production" of 4 million metric tons (MT) in the first half of this year was possible, which could mean that importing more rice to cover shortfalls may not be necessary.

In a press briefing yesterday, Alcala said rice production in the first quarter could reach 4.1 million MT, 10.6 percent higher than the 3.69 million MT produced in the same period last year.

And because of expected robust palay production, Alcala said the first-semester output could hit 8 million MT, breaching the projected output of 7.8 million MT.

"Paddy rice production could reach 8 million MT by the first half. Overall, palay production [at least] for the first quarter is good," he said.

The revised palay production for the first half of the year is 23 percent higher than the output in the same period last year, which was 6.62 million MT.

Total palay production in 2010 was nearly 15.77 million MT, 3 percent lower than production in 2009.

A drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon last year was to blame for the poor crop production, the Department of Agriculture said.

On the other hand, the wet La Niña weather, which started last October and peaked in January and February, brought above-normal rainfall all over the country, during what were supposed to be dry months.

"The unusually high precipitation was beneficial to the rice farmers, Alcala said.

The better than-expected paddy yield has given Alcala more confidence to reduce additional rice importation.

"I told the NFA council there will be a bumper harvest of palay (in the first half of the year), so the rice import figure we announced to final and we may no longer have to revise it," he said.

In March, the Philippines ordered 200,000 metric tons of rice from Vietnam for about P4 billion. It also purchased 60,000 tons in commercial rice traders for the importation of 660,000 metric tons of rice via the NFA's private sector importation facility.

National Food Authority (NFA) Administrator Angelito Banayo had said that he was keen on importing more rice to ensure that there would be enough stocks in the form of buffer stocks and the second half of the year, when ferocious typhoons hit the country.

It's still summer, but rains are here

IT MAY be summer, but the rains are here.

Flash floods and traffic jams swamped parts of Metro Manila yesterday, when torrential rains suddenly poured in the afternoon, catching residents and commuters by surprise.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said Luzon residents should bring their umbrellas as rains in the afternoons will be more frequent.

"From now on, mornings will be hot and sunny, but the afternoons might see rains," Pagasa said. KRISTINE L. ALAVE

Don't let your **future** be dictated by the Big **C.**

Use of laser weapon in the Eradication of Cancer: ***Steady, Accurate and Relentless***
Those who were sentenced to "**await death**" gains a light of hope

The traditional treatment of cancer are surgery, then radiotherapy and chemotherapy. However, many cancer patients that are being diagnosed are already on their late stage where the chance of operation has already been lost, but before moving to such radiotherapy.

Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital in recent years has introduced the intelligent photodynamic treatment as an outstanding representation of precise radiotherapy. It is also used in Northeast Asia and is currently the "best" three-dimensional confirmed radiation therapy equipment for cancer before radical radiotherapy, surgery and postoperative radiotherapy. Out of thousands of cancer patients, 90% has received a new life after treatment.

This method is particularly suitable for diabetes as well as other diseases of impossible cancer patients who are of old age. Some who refused to have surgery and those who have lost the opportunity for surgery. Early stage nasopharyngeal carcinoma, laryngeal cancer, prostate cancer, esophageal cancer, lung cancer and other mediastinal tumors advanced very good results using this method. For advanced lung cancer, metastatic brain cancer and a variety of other lesions, it can effectively control the further development of tumor, it relieves the patient from suffering, improves the living conditions and prolongs the patient's life.

Guangzhou Modern Cancer Hospital admitted a Japanese patient whose body was color yellow already, he has lost his appetite, suffering from low pain, and his CT examination revealed that his gallbladder were connected completely while the liver showed mild swelling. Surgery has been deemed too risky at this point, and the tumor can not be completely eradicated, less effective chemotherapy can be is also unknown. However it was clear that the treatment should be done as soon as possible. Otherwise liver function would get worse with life threatening consequences. With the patient and his family's consent, the hospital will apply the intelligent photodynamic "blade" where there will be no bleeding, no pain and no trauma on the patient. Compared with traditional surgery and ordinary radiation therapy, this intelligent treatment method is definitely superior.

A short application of the intelligent photodynamic knife decreased that the patient's jaundice (yellow skin) has fully recovered, appetite was back to normal, while tumors and swelling has stopped. Even more incredible is that the tumor disappeared in patient's in vivo. Did it, he is no longer a cancer patient.

Stability. Intelligent photodynamic treatment provides a solution for the tumor by eliminating it. It can also carry out accurate three-dimensional instrumental positioning to maximize the high energy X ray concentrated on the tumor; to avoid radiation damage to normal tissue.

Accuracy. Intelligent photodynamic treatment utilizes stereotactic three-dimensional space and direction direction to locate the tumor and its size. It rapidly builds accurate three-dimensional images, providing comprehensive technical parameters for treatment; an accuracy ordinary radiation therapies can not match.

Relentless. Common radiotherapy in the treatment of cancer on a single dimension making it difficult to immediately eliminate the tumor. Intelligent photodynamic treatment on the other hand uses three-dimensional "blades" which can be adjusted according to the tumor location and size allowing specialists to easily eliminate the tumor.

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Pork for Malaysia

By Ariston L. Alave

PORK from the Philippines may soon find its way to the kitchens and tables of the predominantly Muslim Malaysia.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala yesterday said talks between the government and Malaysian firm, which he declared as already have been underway for the latter to import about 1,000 head of hogs per week.

"The company which has a Filipino partner is now negotiating with us. The started negotiations last week," Alcala said in a press briefing. Alcala said he hopes that the discussions would be finalized in two months.

The pork from the Philippines would be supplied to restaurants who are non-Muslims in Malaysia, Alcala said.

He assured that the country is an attractive supplier of pork in Malaysia, which has a low local demand that is insufficient to cater its own consumption.

Unlike some countries in Asia, the Philippines is not plagued by the foot-and-mouth disease, Alcala explained.

The Philippines is set to be declared free from the dreaded foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) by the World Organization for Animal Health or Office International des Epizooties (OIE) this month.

This would be a big boost to the hog raisers and pork suppliers, the Agriculture Secretary said. Aside from Malaysia, Alcala had noted that Philippine pork products could make their way to South Korea, where there is currently an FMD outbreak.

Social networks steal thunder from int'l wires, cable networks

WHEN THE White House abruptly announced an address to the nation by President Barack Obama on Sunday night, Colin Sloan Arsenault (CSA) anchors spent the better part of an hour presuming the address without actually saying what it was about.

"I have my own gut instincts on what it might be," CSA anchor Wolf Blitzer said a couple of times, adding that a senior White House official had "absolutely" hint for drawing "inferences" and not speculating.

Thanks to Twitter and Facebook, some CNN watchers had already heard the news.

Unconfirmed reports—that turned out to be true—of Osama bin Laden's demise circulated widely on social media for about 20 minutes before the anchors of the major television and cable networks reported about the raid at 10:45 p.m., about an hour before Obama's address from the White House.

It was another example of how social and traditional media deal with the same issues in different ways and at different speeds. Just as CNN had once challenged newspapers and evening newscasts with a constant stream of bloopers from the first Gulf War, Twitter and Facebook have become really scaring systems for breaking news—albeit not always reliable ones.

Twitter saw the highest sustained rate of tweets ever, with an average of 3,440 posts per second on its platform from 10:45 p.m. to 12:28 a.m. Eastern. (tweeted: Time 2007). There were more than 5 million mentions of Bin Laden on Facebook in the United States alone, in terms of the raid at Bin Laden's hideout spread starting around 10:30 p.m. A new Facebook page popped up titled "Osama bin Laden Is Dead" for people to begin sharing their thoughts. It had more than 400,000 fans yesterday (it now has 1.2 million). ("Osama bin Laden Is Dead," soon followed.)

Generation's PR moment

Not only did text messages and social networks help people consume and spread the news about Bin Laden's death, Twitter, Facebook and other sharing services helped people react to the news, spurring impromptu gatherings in ground zero, White House and outside the White House.

It left some reporters and observers trying to place the shared experience of the Bin Laden news in context. "Kennedy moment for a new generation," said Alan Fisher, a correspondent for Al Jazeera English. "For my generation, clearly, remember 9/11 and Elvis's death, for those younger, Osama's death will be on that list for its global impact."

Sara Diehl, 20, a sophomore majoring in Latin American studies at Georgetown University, was scrolling a page in her dorm room when he looked at his Facebook page and saw an update from a friend, making reference to an upcoming announcement by Obama, and speculation about Bin Laden's death.

"It just...ripped across Facebook," said Diehl, who searched in vain for more bits and pieces of the story exploded in his Facebook news feed. Then he saw calls urging students to gather at the university's green and head to the White House.

'It spurred me into action'

"For the first time ever, rather than just informing me, it spurred me into action," said Diehl, who grabbed an American flag off his wall and headed out.

Once the President made his announcement, most of Instagram, a photo sharing application for the iPhone, flooded the service with photos of people spontaneously erupted from television and laptop screens. Soon, there were photos of American flags and Ground Zero from the crowds gathered in New York and Washington.

Around 11 p.m., during the eighth inning of a first Major League baseball game at Citizens Bank Park, in Philadelphia, chants of "USA! USA!" started in the section near the third baseline. Minutes later, the game's announcer, Jeff Brantley, pulled out his iPhone, searched Twitter and found out why the chants were filling the stadium.

Some other people in the crowd remained confused.

"At first, I was slightly skeptical because I knew that there were reports in the past where they said that we were successful," said John Says, 24, of Fremont, NJ, who was at the game. "Then I saw a lot of friends tweeting about it—that Obama was about to come on the news. Then I heard the chants and I knew that it was true and then phones exploding."

Pitfalls of real-time news

What was missing on these services, for the most part, was original reporting. That was left up to the news media, parties both the few that had reporters in Pakistan. "Our Kabul reporters spoke to Afghan security chiefs who said it comes now—there is now a Bin Laden on every street," said Peter Horsnell, the director of BBC Global News, in an e-mail.

Ben Edmon, the author of "Ink the Media: Grassroots Journalism for the People, by the People" who watches journalism and media ethics University, said it was important to remain cautious about the impact of how people are consuming real-time news, particularly given the erroneous reports that took place during another recent news event where unconfirmed reports originations reported that Rep. Gabrielle Giffords had died in the Tucson, Arizona, shooting.

"I think that we should be cautious about the rules of 'them versus us,'" Edmon said. "The rules of these networks is huge for everyone involved, including the users. I think that we should be cautious about turning over all of our conversations to privately held companies that are in business for their shareholders in terms of changes or outcomes."

New York Times News Service

Pakistani blogger scoops world's media

ABBOTTABAD, Pakistan—An IT consultant who hoped for a quiet life in a summer resort town in Pakistan has become an Internet sensation after the first to report the attack on the world's most-wanted man.

Sohaib Athar was just another sultry voice on micro-blogging site Twitter until he heard the sound of helicopters over his house in Abbottabad, 50 kilometers north of Islamabad early Monday.

But Athar is now world famous with almost 90,000 Twitter "followers"—users who keep track of his messages—as the first person to report the attack on Osama bin Laden's secret hideaway.

He was swamped with e-mails and interview requests from media around the globe and his blog was even searched by Internet hackers.

"Bin Laden is dead. I didn't kill him. Please let me sleep now," he tweets on Twitter after the story went around the world.

It began with a tweet in the early hours of Monday morning.

"Helicopter hovering above Abbottabad at 1 a.m. (is a rare event)," Twitter followers.

"No away helicopter before I take out my giant sweater."

On a break from rat race

As he explained on his Twitter feed, he was simply an IT consultant looking for a quiet life by "taking a break from the rat race by hiding in the mountains" with his laptop.

Little did he know it, but he was the only real-time reporter to the US military's finally getting their man, the world's most wanted terrorist... Osama bin Laden.

"A huge window shaking being here in Abbottabad. Cause. I hope its not the start of something nasty," he tweeted under his Twitter handle "@reallyvirtual" during the attack by US special forces.

"All silent after the blast, but a friend located to 4 km away too...the helicopter is gone too," he wrote later.

"Seems like my giant sweater worked," he joked, posting a link to a news story about a fatal copter crash.

Something extraordinary

Then it started to become clear that something extraordinary was happening. "Ten few people online at this time of the night are saying one of the copters was not Pakistani." But there was still no clue it was linked to an attack on rival Qaida founder.

"Funny, moving to abbottabad was part of the 'being safe' strategy," he joked and soon offered a link to the location of the attack close to a Pakistani military base.

He even offered a slice of personal analysis of the situation worthy of any CNN pundit: "Since Taliban (probably) don't have helicopters, and since they're saying it was not 'ours,' it must be some-pleasant situation."

Later one of Athar's followers was the first to link the crash with news that the US president was planning to address the nation: "I think the helicopter crash in Abbottabad, Pakistan, and the President (Barack Obama) breaking news address are connected."

There goes neighborhood

Athar then realized he had been the first with news of the attack.

"Osama bin Laden killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Bd was confirmed it. Uh oh, there goes the neighborhood," he joked.

"Uh oh, now I'm the guy who [w]ritedgged the Osama raid without knowing it."

As Athar explains on his website, moving to rural areas has a "a 33-year-old guy from Lahore, Pakistan. He has 16 years of programming experience and seven years of parenting experience."

But he was not looking to bask in the limelight, running down or not responding to most interview requests from the media.

"I'm still sitting online, there's still no electricity here, and the west haven't ended. The world hasn't changed," he tweeted on Sunday. AFP

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LPU
Taking the Lead

BIGGETTE Aquino exchanges pleasantries with Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza during his recent visit.

Alaminos City folk thank P-Noy for airport project

RESIDENTS of Alaminos City in Pangasinan have expressed their gratitude to President Aquino for removing the tension of months of P75 million in purchase funds for commercial airport in the home of the Hundred Islands National Park.

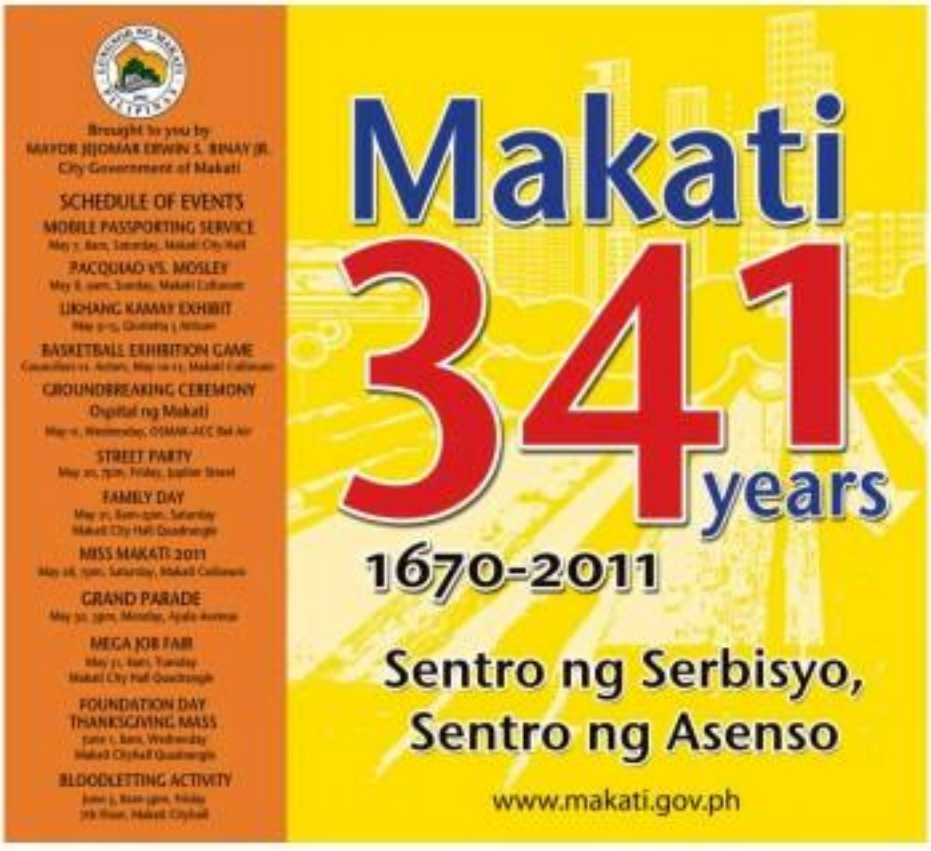
Alaminos Mayor Hernani Braganza, in a press conference, thanked the national government for its effort, attention and support to complete the development of the Alaminos airport project.

"Thank you for everything you do for our city. We will always treasure it," he told the President. Mr. Aquino, in a speech during his recent visit to Agno River, Bolinao, announced that he had ordered Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima to release P75 million representing the second tranche of the P150.7-million budget allocation for acquisition of a 158.5-hectare land in the town of Salasagan, Binalonan, Pangasinan.

He gave Budget Secretary Florencio Abad the green light to release P1.066 billion to the Department of Tourism, Secretary Jesus "Ding" dr Jr. was to fund priority rehabilitation and construction projects of airports, seaports and other transportation infrastructure facilities.

Abad described as "big project" the Alaminos airport. The President, in an earlier visit to Alaminos City, even endorsed the inclusion of the project under the national government's push to private partnership (PPP) program.

need a job?



American Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

P-Noy aunt joins fray in ARMM polls

COTABATO CITY—A relative of President Aquino is joining the fray in the yet uncertain elections for officials of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM).

Jocelyn Marguerite "Tingting" Dolor Hayco-Cojanguin, aunt-in-law of the President, said she was making herself available for candidacy in the ARMM election scheduled in August, but which Malacañang is trying to postpone.

"Old friends and legions of their supporters are insisting that I run if elections were held in August," said Cojanguin.

"I'm not really pushing myself into the ARMM political picture but the people tell me," she said.

In an interview with a local radio station here on Monday, Cojanguin said she is being groomed to be the running mate of Sen Bongbong Marcos, who is being tagged as candidate for governor.

Bongbong Marcos' political career has spanned 28 years, including stints as Ilocos Norte governor and the province's representative in the House.

Cojanguin said the people of Maguindanao and the rest of ARMM are close to her heart, a relationship that she said began during the reign of the late Agapito's mother, the late Pres Corazon Cojuangco Aquino.

On the rising possibility that the question of residency might be raised against her, Cojanguin quickly pointed to a house that she owns in Dole Ville Tiboan (in Maguindanao) just a few kilos from the Awang airport.

She said she had transferred her voter's registration papers from Tubao to Maguindanao in preparation for the coming regional elections.

"I'm not running for election and the people's rush that I run is up to them," said Cojanguin, defending her first direct participation in ARMM politics in its upgraded of Muslim autonomy for self-governance.

"I'm not saying that Muslims cannot run it effectively," said Cojanguin.

"They can by themselves but they want it non-Muslim leaders for Maguindanao, a Christian with a lineal by Muslim Mindanao," said Cojanguin, who claimed that 20 percent of ARMM's redistricters are lumad and Christians.

She vowed to work for peace and development in ARMM, especially in strengthening autonomy. She said she would work for more access to education, health and socioeconomic opportunities for the region's more than two million inhabitants.

In his only Cojanguin's joins three candidates for governorship in the Aug 8 election in the filing of certificates of candidacy of the Commission on Elections more next week.

Those earlier considered as possible candidates for governorship include acting Governor Datu Adiong Former Rep. Dakgain Datumpalun, Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Dimaporo and former party-list Rep. Mujib Sinsuat of Bonlan. Oberlin L. Sebios, Inquirer Mindanao

Slain mayor's daughter: 'Corrupt' pol is brains

By Jerry Esplanada and Rachel Arnaiz
Inquirer Visayas

INGLESIDE, 12TV—President Aquino's political party is offering a P200,000 reward for information leading to the killers of Calbayog City Mayor Reynaldo Yu, which the slain mayor's daughter said was politically motivated.

Yu, 59, a member of Mr Aquino's Liberal Party, was shot dead by a lone gunman in a cafe a covered court in Hinunangan, Samar, 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Samar Rural Mobilize Bureau Rebolcon, who was seated next to Yu, was wounded in the attack. Rebolcon is now out of danger.

Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said in a press conference on Monday that the task toward would help encourage witnesses to come out.

"We're finding some difficulties because we don't have a victim witness," said Robredo at a brief media conference prior to leaving this city.

In a speech she read in reporters, Rina Jessica Yu Bergado, the slain mayor's eldest daughter, said the family believed the murder of her father was perpetrated by a "highly corrupt politician."

She, however refused to identify who the politician was. Her father had filed a recall petition against the children of ex-Gov Milagros Tan, who were also governor and vice governor of Samar.

Their mother had been suspended for 90 days during her term as governor by the mayor of her impeached governor's relatively fund.

Chief Supt. Arnold Revilla, police regional director, did not discount the possibility that politics was behind the murder.

'King of the road' pedicabs reign in town

By Phoda Vivay
Inquirer Northern Luzon

HOMETOWN
Swagsbod

SAN CARLOS, Pangasinan—The town has been accommodating pedicabs in its streets since the 1990s and these have generated taxicabs have overtaken their sturdy building counterparts as the popular mode of transportation.

But life is hardly devoid of challenges. The design of which ordinary people of big-wheeled bikes of the 1950s and 1960s.

Jaunder Morales, 68, one of the oldest pedicab drivers here, wakes the wee hours and usually refuses from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. but he lugs home with P150 to 200 bucks.

Since he doesn't own the pedicab, he pays P40 daily to its operator, leaving him with only about P100 to feed his wife, children and grandchildren. He has a 10-year-old son who also drives a pedicab.

"Before, we earn around P200 to P300. But because the number of pedicab drivers keeps increasing, competition for passengers is cutthroat," says Morales.

The boom in the pedicab business in this central Pangasinan town is manifested in hundreds of travel pedicabs (hundreds more are on organized). This is higher than the 1,200 registered motorized tricycles, records from the town's Business Permit and Licensing Department show.

"Mangaldan is one of the few remaining towns in the province with pedicabs. It is the town's ubiquitous means of public transport since the 1960s. And being a pedicab driver is the most common livelihood among the town's barrio class," Hotel Hermosa Romero says.

But pedicab drivers have been blamed for heavy traffic in the town's business district. Because pedicabs are slow moving, they are regarded as nuisance by commuters in the province's major commercial, educational and government centers, like Dagupan City and the capital Lingayen.

Mangaldan may be the only town allowing pedicabs on the national road, mainly because of social practice and the lack of other routes," says Jesse de Vera, municipal traffic and disasters unit in the town mentioned.

The ordinance prohibiting pedicabs from the national road in the central business district from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. and from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., when public utility jeeps and minibuses to park the roads, has been implemented since February.

"We know how, arousing people, especially the elderly, not to go to the market on the three to 30 km so they would tread walking. But there are those who simply would comply and ask pedicab drivers to transport them right in front of stores," says De Vera.

PEDICABS are the "king of the road" in Mangaldan, Pangasinan.

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10 cops face relief for robbing fishermen

SLAGEL, Antipolo—Six police officers were stripped of their badges and had been detained following complaints they extorted a group of fishermen in Barrio Ilihan here before robbing them of their catch.

"We will never tolerate police abuses in the province," Gov Miguel Dominguez told reporters after ordering the provincial police office to have the policemen suspended.

"They have been detained, stripped of their badges," said Dominguez, adding he wanted the policemen to be kept behind bars.

Chief Supt. Reuben S. Montes, provincial police director, said criminal charges for indiscriminate firing, theft and robbery have been filed against SPO2 Edwin Perlas, PO2 Edmund Ermita, PO2 Joel Cadawi, PO2 Gonzalo Santos Jr., PO2 Christian Gonzales, PO2 Hermogenes Mendiola, PO2 Danilo Abreng Jr., PO3 Nonnel Bello, PO1 Joel Nuqui and PO2 Pantaleon Lore at the provincial prosecutor's office.

The fishermen said they were accosted by the policemen on April 21 in Lago beach. The policemen fired their personal weapons but a catch, the fishermen said. Apollo Zorilla, Inquirer Mindanao

Tribe fears retaliation following mining closure

BAYOG, Zamboanga del Sur—Illanos, belonging to the Indigenous Subanen Pigkalahan Gideon de Bayog (Bayog Tribal Association) said that they fear retaliation from the Fans. Lupa Bagiaraman (Lupa) following a government order to close down Lupa's mining operations here.

Environment Secretary Lucita Lantacan Mandia of the Subanen group, said Lupa had blamed them for the closure of its mining operations last month.

Albert Iskaran for this, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR MGB) Western Mindanao director said Lupa has itself to blame because it failed to comply with the law.

The DENR MGB, with the help of police and military, shut down the operations of Lupa Aton on April 14 to enforce MGB's cease and desist order.

MGB issued the order after Lupa was found to be operating without permits. The firm, however, continued its operations despite the MGB order, prompting the raid on its facilities.

Lupa has been accused of committing human rights violations against residents in the area through its security group called AVSU, allegedly armed and run by retired generals.

Incidents had raised the climate of tension in the area. Several mining equipment and vehicles during the raid on Lupa facilities.

Bobby Langaling, brother of former chair of the National Commission on Indigenous People Ruben Langaling, a prime mover of the mining ban, traveled to Manila to appeal to the DENR national office to compel the enforcement of the MGB order.

Manda, a leader of the Subanen who claim the mining area as ancestral domain, thanked the government for the decision order.

Manda said Lupa is just being used as a dummy by a bigger, multinational mining company.

With Ferd. Inquirer Mindanao

BACOOR EARTH DAY PACT
Bacoor, Cavite, Mayor Strike Revilla, also head of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines, leads the signing of the "Kasi Bacoor ay Kalikasan at Kapalgiran," a pact with the youth of his town to pursue programs to protect the environment, during Earth Day celebrations there last April 22.

INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Joe Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Joy of farming reintroduced in Benguet

By Maurice Malanes
Bilangbigan, Benguet

OFFICIALS and educators of the upland farming town of Kibungan in Benguet fear that one day will be left to till the soil unless the youth are encouraged to find joy and fulfillment in farming.

"We have to reintroduce the joy of farming even to school children," says Daniel Bacaldo, principal of Kibungan Central School. Bacaldo recalls that during his grade school, gardening was part of a subject on work education where pupils were encouraged to plant vegetables on idle lots on campus.

So when classes open in June, Bacaldo says, he and his teachers will embark on "Gulayan sa Paaralan" school garden, a project which aims to make full use of idle lots while teaching pupils the reward of cultivating vegetables.

The teachers say they will also encourage the children to socialize in their diet the crops they themselves will grow.

"The Gulayan sa Paaralan can also be a way to teach children the discipline and techniques of organic farming," Mayor Benito Bado says.

Organic vegetables, Bado notes, have a promising market that Kibungan residents must also explore.

To be integrated with the school garden project is entrepreneurship. Pupils can sell extra crops at the school's cooperative store or in the local canteen.

A nationwide initiative of the Department of Education, the Gulayan sa Paaralan also aims to encourage the youth to eventually pursue college courses related to helping secure and ensure the country's food self-sufficiency.

Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala has acknowledged the need to encourage children to finally take over the country's farms.

Farming pays

"But we have to show that farming pays," Alcala told a forum attended by farmers in La Trinidad town.

He signed a memorandum of understanding (MOA) between the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the provincial and municipal governments, the Benguet State University, and the Benguet Farmers Marketing Cooperative, which would pave the way for the construction of the Agri-Pinoy Trading Center that rises

Alcala cites Kibungan as an active Quezon. "If whenever there is asked about his occupation, he would say with pride, 'Magsasaka, kaka (Farmer, what)?'" he says.

"Farmers in Quezon have high levels of self-esteem because they have money in their pockets," he says in Filipino.

So, the elder hold, many children in Benguet, when asked about their future occupation, would usually reply "Farmer lang (only)," but Bacaldo bemoans not.

"[The kids lament] on that day I ask a mix of people hired to dig up roots for some flattering ina dignified occupation," he says.

Both Alcala and Kimpson have pinned their hopes on what is billed as a modern trading center in La Trinidad, which, they say, will help ensure farmer entrepreneurs. The P400 million center is expected to give farmers the chance to add value to their crops through value-processing and processing facilities.

When more farmers are earning profitably, also as entrepreneurs, more young people will finally take the path of agriculture because that is "also a question of economics," Alcala says.

To improve the lot of farmers, the agriculture secretary has pledged farming support systems, the most immediate of which is the modern trading center. The processing facility will also have a warehouse and cold storage, bigger parking spaces and commercial stalls, a mini-hotel, boutique area for farmers and developers.

Apart from building farm-to-market roads, Alcala says existing roads must be checked so they would not deteriorate because of poor drainage.

Bright prospects

He says the prospects are bright to spur culture in the short term because other countries need the Philippines to feed their people.

He cites Japan, which, in the aftermath of a killer earthquake and tsunami in March, has to import its food because of production contaminated from products as a result of leaks from its nuclear plants.

South Korea, whose poultry had been affected by the bird flu virus, may also have to import from the Philippines.

The DA's job agencies have been offering scholarships and grants to prove but deserving students to encourage young people to pursue agriculture or agriculture-related courses, Alcala says.

COCOLLEBA officials and educators want the young people interested in agriculture to keep the region's future. Ben Rosario has such an ambition in Kabayan, Kalinga, producers for many generations to come. — CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Gulayan sa Paaralan' seeks to teach kids techniques of organic farming

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Aetas honor Apu Buk-Kot inside sacred Subic forest

By Robert Gamaga
Subic Bay Freeport

AS EVERY Lenten season island-wide, the Subic Bay Freeport zone is a tourist magnet for people looking for a break and join in Holy Week activities, Aeta people from different tribes in Central Luzon also gather on sacred ground inside a forest in the port, where tribal customs are passed on to new generations.

The tribes meet on the Bataw dance wheel, they believe, their most holy ancestor, Apu Buk-Kot, turned himself into spirit and joined his enemies.

Last month, about 50 Aeta families left their homes in the foothills of Mabasa and Mabayuan City in Zambales to go to Bataw and pay respect to Apu Buk-Kot and their other ancestors.

Besides Pinatubo, for non-tribal children of the Pamulaw, aeta and member of the festival organizing committee, can learn secrets of their Apu Buk-Kot's spiritual journey to reunite (the living tribesmen) with the past.

"We do this every Holy Week in memory of Apu Buk-Kot, who did not die but vanished in this very place. That's why it is also during this time that he wishes his presence felt to us," he said.

Through the festival, young aetas and herdsmen also assisted Aetas are taught about the origin, culture, practices and tra-

AETA tribe Bembelo Hermanos that in the foothills and province of the tribe with the young during a festival honoring their ancestors at the Bataw forest in the Subic Bay Freeport.

ditions of the tribes.

During the opening ceremony, Hermanos urged the younger ones to continue the kind of gathering, stressing that Apu Buk-Kot wanted to see the tribes happily bond, dance together and sharing food, as well as preserving their rich culture and history."

Joy Rivera, regional cluster head of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, said that the festival is also the time when elders teach new members and children, aged 4 and above, how to live in the forest with only a knife for making shelter and gathering food.

Children must learn how to catch shrimps and crabs in creeks using their hands and identify edible root crops and fruits, as well as sources of water, she says.

They are also taught how to pray to the Diokno and observe the way they perform it.

The festival moved to Lamay forest in Bataan on May 1 to 3. The Aetas were trained to identify morning and harvesting various crops.

A tribal wedding ceremony was also held during the festival.

"We hope that the coming generations will recognize the importance of culture and traditions, and pass them on to their children so that the Aeta heritage will continue to exist through the years," Rivera says.

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ISSN 0115-2042 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER INQ[R]VOL. XXXVI, NO. 141

OPINION

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Common grounds

IN SPITE of the public noise it has generated for years, one can hardly say that the controversy over the reproductive health bill is moving toward resolution. In fact, very recently, it looked like it has been pushed back into ever more murky uncertainty after several Catholic bishops indicated that they might abandon for good the path of dialogue they have taken with the Aquino administration to resolve contentious issues around the RH bill.

EDITORIAL

"If he has already such a decision, what is the dialogue for?" recently retired Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal bristled last April 26 in reaction to reports that the RH bill had been endorsed by President Aquino who prefers to call it Responsible Parenthood bill. "When you are into a dialogue, there should be no stand yet, but with the stand that they have already made, there's no need for it," the cardinal said.

Two days later, Cotabato Auxiliary Bishop Jose Colin Bagaforo echoed Vidal's call, saying this was as well the sentiment of other bishops. "We will be endorsing the approval of the RH bill, as what's the need for the dialogue," he said. The new Archbishop of Cebu Jose Palma even went overboard by putting all supporters of the RH bill in the category of terrorist Osama bin Laden who, incidentally, was slain the other day.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines expressed its openness to a dialogue when the debate on the RH bill started in 2008, during the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who gratified the bishops with her backhanded signals regarding the RH bill. It was only late last year that the Church and the government, with a new, openly pro-RH President in place, got to openly sit together on the RH bill.

After four meetings though, the Church suspended the talks with the government and, about a month later, spearheaded anti-RH bill rallies around the country in the last week of March, only to go back to the dialogue table on March 30 upon the invitation of the President. And now comes Vidal's call.

To be sure, it is not entirely the fault of the bishops that the nation can't seem to conduct a sensible public debate on the controversial RH bill. Some RH bill supporters have also not been exactly rational in advancing their cause, often diverting discussions from the real issues to the "sins" of the Church and to outcasters, as with cheap taunts. As did Carlos Celdran with his "Damaso performance" inside the Manila Cathedral during a religious ceremony, his tearing down of an anti-RH bill streamer hung in CBCP territory, and his distribution of condoms within the premises of Quiapo Church, a center of almost-fanatical Catholic devotion, all of which only muddled the RH controversy and contributed not one whit to an intelligent discussion of the issues around it.

Indeed, it is unfortunate that the dialogue between the government and the Church appears to be going the way of the off-and-on peace talks between the government and communist rebels or Muslim insurgents. It's one that in this case, the government would rather be a "referee" between those for or against the RH bill, not "the other side," as it is in the peace talks.

"The Church should not look at the government as an adversary," Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda said. "Let's focus on the common ground ... We're not the enemy here. We're trying to bring all the forces together and arrive at commonalities. And let's agree and disagree on certain areas, but let's explore our agreements more, and if it's possible, put that into the bill."

It should be noted that, despite the seemingly hardline stand taken by both sides, the public debate on the bill has not gone totally for naught. In his May 2 Inquirer column, Jesuit lawyer-priest Joaquin Bernas, an acknowledged expert in constitutional law, noted some significant amendments in the original RH bill. For example, reproductive health and sexuality education is no longer mandatory but a parental option. Also, the specific enumeration of allowable contraceptive devices and methods has been deleted, allowing the prohibition of contraceptive means that are "scientifically identified as abortifacients."

Clearly it's not only the President who has "already made" a stand on the RH bill, and having a definite stand on an issue is no reason to withdraw from this public debate.

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Bin Laden's death hikes risk of more terrorism

AMBROSE Akinmusire is all over the world and enjoying that Osama bin Laden, founder and leader of the terrorist organization al-Qaida, was killed in a US helicopter raid on his hideout in Pakistan. But it's proper and moral for people to rejoice over the death of another human being? Of course. bin Laden is being blamed for the deaths of thousands of innocent people, victims of terrorist attacks he supposedly fashioned and ordered, principally the attacks on the jacked jetliners on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York. But his death does not mean the end of world terrorism. On the contrary, the risk increases for more terrorist attacks, not only on Americans but elsewhere, but also on us allies, the Philippines included.

Already the US has raised the alert on its embassies, diplomatic missions and residence abroad. No doubt, the intelligence community is on the alert to thwart any terrorist attack that will do the same thing. The Philippines has already informed security in the airports, that terrorists will always find a way to find holes in the security net, as they have done in the past.

Instead of thinking about the terrorist threat would should be more vigilant and careful. There will surely be acts of revenge, not only from al-Qaida, but from any scared militant, Muslim or not, who admires the terrorist leader. The attack will take place where we least expect it. And as sure as the sun rises in the east, another person will rise to lead al-Qaida. Already, an Egyptian born surgeon, Ayman al-Zawahiri, is al-Qaida's second in command, is being talked about as the Laden's successor.

The Philippines is especially vulnerable. Aside from the fact that it is perceived as ardent ally of the US, the public mind, from memories of 9/11 week is far from foolproof. Besides, we have a restless Muslim population and rebel groups with links to al-Qaida. The terrorists will strike where security is weakest.

The American hunt of bin Laden's remains at sea. There is expression his admirers from turning any place on earth where he is buried into a shrine. Even so, bin Laden will be regarded by his admirers as a martyr, a symbol to follow.

And because his corpse was never shown in public, what is to prevent them from saying that bin Laden is alive and well somewhere, eventually to be a rallying point for Muslim rebels? What is to prevent a bin Laden look-alike from surfacing somewhere, have himself photographed or televised delivering a message to his followers and threatening the West with reprisals?

* * *

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

Do you know that there is a government department called the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council, and that there are supposed to be day care centers in every neighborhood into which the deposit money? It is headed by a Cabinet member no less, and it has been in existence for the last 18 years? I had not heard about it until its first secretary, Bernard Sen, broke Aquino-Oreta, President Aquino's aunt, guested at the Kapihan sa Manila at the Diamond Hotel last Monday, together with Undersecretary Teresita D. Ramoy. Being a reporter of the Pentagon, besides having a GMA appointee, Teresa had to resign from her Cabinet position but she remains as a consultant. Orsky is the author of the law that created the ECCD Council.

What does the ECCD do? It sets up and supervises what are called Child Development Centers (CDCs) all over the Philippines, especially in the poor communities. Actually they are day care centers where toddlers are brought early in the morning while their capacity for brain development are at their greatest. Here, is said it takes advantage of the child's infinite ability to learn and absorb learning much faster and easily when he is between the ages of 2 and 4, making those years to transform into formal schooling when they enter the Dep-Ed pre-schools at the age of 5. (I think their brain power decreases steadily after that and reaches the lowest level when they become congressmen and senators.)

"Our view of the Philippines might be changed," said Orsky and Ramoy. "It is no longer just a matter of food, not just a matter of care about, he has also become a matter of nurture."

What he teaches them at the day care centers? Specially-trained child development assistants (CDAs). The ECCD Council is currently sponsoring the training of day care teachers to provide them with the necessary skills and qualifications to handle preschool classes to help the Deped reach 5-year-old children who will enter kindergarten in school year 2011-2012.

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) will conduct the training and confer the equivalent of 6 units of credits under its Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education program to successful participants in the training conducted by the ECCD. The program, in addition, they will get accreditation as CDAs from the ECCD Council.

* * *

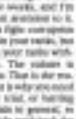
The third game at the Sophies in Diamond was Customs Commissioner Lito Alvarez who promised that reforms are coming in the bureau of Customs to prevent corruption and smuggling. For beginners, smuggled used pickups will be banned from the customs zone. Many of those who have no business being there, he said, operates as fronts and technical smugglers who outrage customs employees through bribery, blackmail and murder.

Until now the Bureau of Customs (BOC) is a tax secured to the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) as a fund raiser for the national government.

Alvarez is also investigating the purchase by the last administration of 30 x-ray machines which, at P100,000 each, was overpriced, he said. Only 10 of them are in use now. Who do we think the agents of the dead, who approved it, and who pocketed the commissions as well as tax evaders?

Cultures

There's the Rub



Conrado de Quiros

KIDS MONDEGA had many very interesting things to say in Washington as a World Bank intern on corruption.

In the course of her work as an intern, she said, she encountered some pesky mind-boggling cases of corruption. One involved the awarding of 9,000 toilets to promote hand-washing, a city hospital buying Mongol pencils that were overpriced 5,000 times, and an ARMM governor donating 100 million to the wedding of his child.

In the course of her work as well, she met with much-lobbied staff, several governments of Seven Sleep all sorts of changes against her. "The best part is when an auditee is charged in court because she does not get any support from the agency. She is left to fend for herself or herself."

Fighting corruption shouldn't just be government's concern, Mondeza said, it should be the people's, what else corruption are public agencies if a citizenry is not vigilant of their actions. And since there's our common home on family "love for family should be surpassed by an even greater love for country and love of God."

And, first off, you've got to take your hat off to Mondeza. Her corruption all sorts of ways to fight corruption, but it all begins with individual choice. "Lala lang sa pulis ma," and unfortunately for us, most of our public officials would rather join rin than lick 'em. And it is the small way by the small being liberally applied along with the rest. That is in particularly in institutions like the military and police, and places like the AFMM, where simply being human, never mind serving on the corrupt and unjustly, by land/subsistence drop to others and is intervention in government running for corruption.

Courage is as much moral as physical. Hard as it is to stomp off threats, even harder to stomp off a life of deprivation for one's self and loved ones, especially in light of public apathy or even scorn. But someone has to stand up for the like Mondeza, and you have to be very glad the new government has enlisted people like her in its cause. True enough, you can't stop wee against corruption without having a code of honor, or even honor, heroic people in your midst.

But just as well, you cannot wage a war against corruption without enlisting the people in your cause. That is something I've been banging on over the last few weeks, and I'm glad Mondeza has also drawn attention to it. It's a vital point. You cannot fight corruption without enlisting the people in your cause, but you cannot get the people in your ranks without changing their culture. The culture is marked by layers of corruption. That is the reason for the public apathy. That is why you need things like an independent trial, or having the advertising corruption's wrists in general, to help change the culture, to help push back the public's lack of concern, lower mind-outrage, lower cost-opinion.

Mondeza does well to put in relief to highlight one important layer of that culture which is contempt for others, which is the Filipino's overwhelming tendency to indeed devotion, to family.

The family, which both Church and state extol as the bedrock of Philippine society, the source of the Filipino's core values, can be as much a bane as a blessing. Oligarchy is rife in this country which is just another way of saying that a few families control its political economy. Illocos is change is, or at least control interests is change is. Marcos himself rationalized against the "oligarchs" have resulted only in destroying the oligarchies by plundering new ones.

"Family first" is the operating principle at the lower levels as well. You find that in societal relations like, "Iyanan ba po nay Bunga mo, nanalpas naman ang kalbaga mo." Indeed, you find that in actual behavior. Someone becomes a public official and his relatives and friends expect him to do something for them, not doing so constituting betrayal of the most sort. They don't particularly care if he steals, it's not really stealing anyway if the pilferage or pilfrage is done for family, it's just for big things.

You see that in the way the Ilocos legislators in the last thing that has happened on this country, supposedly being the family unwilling to surrender their turf to outsiders who need. "We don't care that they are BOR so long as he's one BOR," the Ilocanos did not. Indeed, you have to wonder, given that the majority in Congress are determined to keep thieves among this country's heroes, if it's just the Ilocanos that do, or do not.

We add the he-all-and-end-all regard for family with the country's already lame sense of taxpayers' money, and you have a recipe for mischief. "Lame sense" may already be optional. At its core are moral issues many as old as the hills of crime and basic services. We condemn those two powerful forces, and action the public is going to have a very tolerance of stealing as it would see it as stealing is all.

Some of this is to suggest that we should just hang our heads and despair. All of it is to suggest that we need to expand the framework of fighting corruption. The reason it is that so honest and pseudo apolitic corrupt individuals, and some times more corrupt in a long time-Child and her cabal. Of course it is evasive online learns men and women into the ranks of government, and those crimes must honor in a long time-Child, Mendoza. But it is just as vital, if not more so, to fight the very culture that makes corruption evolve and triumph. It is just as vital, if not more so, to bring the people immediately to see the blight, and even to a point become active in its wannabe ways. "Ilimas na, subukan, tigilan na."

If we can have a culture of corruption, we can also have a culture of honesty.

Post-Edsa democracy and executive triumphalism

BACOLOD CITY — Democracy after 1986 was the theme of the annual International conference of the Philippine Political Science Association last weekend in the University of St. La Salle.

The conference started on Friday, the day after Globalization (the country) celebrated its second executive bandwagoning by President Aquino and handed over her resignation. By the time the conference ended on Saturday evening, her offer was vacuous, the Aquino administration claimed the first victim of its populist — as part of its campaign to purge the bureaucracy of undesirable elements, inherited from the pre-Aquino administration — and displayed her hand in the first stages of its campaign for good governance.

The ousting of the ombudsman suggested a reorientation by the administration's political allies and its more hesitant sections of the mass media, which hailed the resignation as a demonstration of an aggressive exercise of presidential power to push the administration's political objectives. The President's decision to fire the ombudsman, by bestowing in his case of the awesome powers of his office to move the country forward to a promised land riding a chariot propelled by the deliberately, "I dare it or call upon them to no power," he was likened to a conquering Caesar returning home in triumph after defeating the barbarian hordes. But to the rebellious God are heroes.

Although only one head rolled in the campaign to remove the ombudsman, the mettle and the prowess were not far behind in enthusiasm from the executive branch of government. Riding the fringe of Terror of the French Revolution staged by the Assembly, under the direction of the Committee of Public Safety headed by Maximilien Robespierre, reigned and feared as the "Incorruptible," a role that the Aquino seems to aspire for.

While the President exhibited his non-found zeal in securing chief executive, academics at the Bacolod conference took stock of Philippine democracy a quarter of a century after the February 1986 People Power Revolution, an event that is

ANALYSIS

Armando Doronila

generally regarded as starting the end of the distinguished Ferdinand Marcos and the restoration of democracy he demolished on Sept. 21, 1972. They examined the ramifications of the theme, "Democracy Contested: Progress, Retreat, Interdemocracy." Another agenda, did the restored democracy end by Cory Aquino, the icon of Edsa 1, live up to the expectations of the Filipino people who stumbled in the current? And where is it going under the leadership of a new generation of the Aquino dynasty, which has seems to appropriate for itself the role of custodian of the revolution and has set itself on a mission to restore democracy to its glory of the Edsa mantle.

The academics noted ironic that there was much to be examined about the state of democracy in the past 25 years. There were many questions about the failures in the unfinished papers, many of which were disturbing.

Some the concerns of the academics were expressed in the keynote address of professor Paul R. Hutchcroft, a Filipino scholar and now director of the School of International, Political and Strategic Studies in the College of Asia and the Pacific in the Australian National University in Canberra, where I had spent a few years as a visiting fellow writing my memoirs due for publication towards the end of 2011.

Hutchcroft's paper is entitled "The Power of Patronage: Democratic Ideals and Institutional Realities since 1986."

This article is a review of this paper, but I would like to start from a posterior memo that makes it relevant to the political activism of Pres-

(Continued on Page)

HPV vaccines and screening

CERVICAL CANCER is the program of the Department of Health (DOH). The campaign against screening in women of 10 DOH-accredited public hospitals throughout the country.

This is in line with the observance of May as "Cervical Cancer Awareness Month."

According to the DOH, the rate of cervical cancer deaths has remained unchanged in the last 30 years, with the disease killing at least 12 Filipinos every day. Cervical cancer has the fourth hill of maternal deaths. This is puzzling and tragic because cervical cancer, which is the majority level 80 percent of cases is caused by the human papilloma virus or HPV is preventable and, if detected early, curable. Unfortunately, most of these women feels come for treatment only when the disease has reached a critical stage, the death toll becomes high.

The why women should go for regular screening with the use of a Pap smear or the acetic acid wash test started in the 1960's. For screening purposes, since a woman becomes sexually active, HPV is spread mainly through sexual contact, she should have annual screening, although authorities say that if a woman has three "negative" screenings, she may come for screening only every three years.

More important, parents should encourage their sons and daughters to have themselves vaccinated against HPV since the vaccine works best when a person is young (the recommended age is 9 to 26 years) and before the onset of 9 and 27 and subjects a high level of immunity.

Medical experts even advocate that the HPV vaccine be integrated within the routine immunization schedule of children. Studies show that the high cost of the vaccine is a major impediment. Most women are wise, 50,000 women are expected to include from the free screenings, certainly not a drop in the bucket in comparison of 90 million. Imagine how many more cervical cancer deaths we could prevent if every girl and boy could be vaccinated!

+ + +

(Following is a rebuke I send yesterday, together with other leaders of women's groups, during the non-original visit for the late Andrea

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

Aquino Luces Luciano who passed away last Friday, April 29.)

ALLOW me to begin this tribute with a personal recollection of Justice Lucano here instance. I was then a new graduate working in the public relations office of the Archdiocese of Manila when I first met her. Her name had been in the law bar lists for many years, but she struck me as the epitome of the gracious, refined and soft-spoken lady, an impressive relationship because, since I was then not, I would be meeting the blue-and-white "Charmers" members of the Catholic Women's League.

I was then young, gauche and still learning how to navigate my way through the labyrinth of Church politics, and I was impressed by Justice Luciano's tenacity in defending the rights of women and children.

That realization would come only when, upon her retirement from the Judiciary, she was appointed as the first personal representative of women. In this position, she became a voice for women, and took the first steps to ensuring many laws that Filipino women today rely on to assure our rights and improve our

lot. She was particularly concerned about stopping how-against trafficking and domestic violence, although those would not be passed until many years after she left Congress. I remember particularly her hard work on the issue of child support, during the time of the many cases of partner and child abuse that she handled as a judge.

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BUT Justice Luciano's greatest value to the women's movement, I believe, was serving as a bridge between two generations of women activists and feminists. Together with women like Purita Santos, Leticia Ramos Shahani, Carmen Hontiveros, Aida Sevilla Montilla, Aurora Perez Fornier and many others whom my failing memory cannot now recall, Justice Luciano manifested a distinctly quality in women and in the right to equality, to dignity, to autonomy and equality while staying within the bounds of civility and, dare I say it, politeness.

We could see Justice Luciano and her sisters were the direct descendants of Sorosis. They may have been but soft-spoken, though firm and no-nonsense, and they may have preferred discreet visits and private dinners to our pressuring demonstrations and noisy marches, but as doubting their grasp of the issues and their perseverance work in laying down the legal, social and economic basis of women's rights. If we women today enjoy a wider range of choices, it is due to the groundwork laid by the likes of Justice Luciano and brothers/sisters-in-arms.

It was with a sense of sadness that we bade Justice Luciano passed away in the age of 91, and that she would have retired FIFA from this mortal life only recently, she would always be the lady I knew when I was starting out in the world of women's advocacy and the clobbering tumbles of politics and social movements. That she was engaged with the issues of the day while raising her children, and maintaining a full career in the Judiciary, and that her last long life all the more significant and inspiring. For, would that we all aspire to her kind of womanhood and her own brand of activism.

Recipes for 'mangkukulam'

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampio

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tee

A QUICK explanation is in order here. Recognition rites are different from graduation ceremonies. They are organized by colleges or allow a more personal touch, with speeches geared toward the graduates' particular field. The actual conferment of degrees takes place in the commencement or graduation itself. The former is not as much fun as the latter. Schools of Social Sciences and Philosophy had recognition rites for more than 400 graduates, while the commencement exercises at UP Cebu and UP Tacloban each had about 300 graduates.

But now we "recognize manga-an." That marijuana was dating on hope, but pangatap also had strong connotations of dreaming. Bear with me as I devote two columns to sharing highlights in the speeches delivered, speeches that, I felt, were powerful in the way they were framed thematically and referred to our social and political environment.

Aurora challenge to UP

At UP Diliman's general commencement we had President Benigno Aquino III as the main speaker, with the most direct and concrete challenges for UP graduates. It was sad that the mass media missed out on most of his speech, choosing to concentrate instead on his promise to improve income brackets (which I felt was important, but was not the only noteworthy aspect of his speech).

The President delivered his speech in Filipino, flawlessly and eloquently, while Indian me had awkward trying to translate many of his sentences, unchanging in giveaways of the original words he used.

He started out by naming some UP alumni who in their own making a difference: Supreme Court Justice Antonio Carpio, Commission on Audit Chair Grace Pulido Tan, and of course Ernesto Maceda, the nicknamed Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, who was also given a book of condolences named, trying to clean up governments. "Huwaran ang kabataan, maging mga mali. Huwaghaw na ako ng mga mali, ang sabi nga, ang mga kabataan ang siyang pag-asa ng bayan," he called on the graduates. (See what I mean by leaving one's translations?)

The President then addressed the graduating class. Would our UP graduates, he asked, think of coming home soon? Just now, after working overseas with Dispak na Dispak fees and lots of earnings? Would our UP graduates someday serve, saying some high positions, will remember the slogans of college days? Would they, he rhetorically asked, allow a friend, a kin, a "kaibigan" (a fellow member of a student organization, that's an add-on he notes)?

Taking a phrase out of UP's hymn, he asked if our graduates would be able to sustain fanaticism of honor and dignity (*kabanatan ng dangal*), looking under the table dearly, perhaps at their shoes or the carpeting? Would they be able to resist the wheeling and the dealing, described as "napakatamis ang tukso" (many salespersons and conversations)?

As the President tackled his two challenges, he drew inspiration as he asked the students to remember it was nothing because doing good is difficult.

Scholars for people

The other speaker I wanted to quote was professor Felipe Miranda, who delivered the keynote as the recognition rites of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy in UP Diliman. He was also the only couple that more than 40 years as UP Diliman and a more productive researcher.

Like President Aquino, he spoke in Filipino, with much stronger language in macho when we are today. The most serious issue we face today, he reminded us, is the evil of crime, is to see just as wonders of trees in institutions and leaders of the country. Crime is the evil of the country, with 30 percent of the population now working overseas, and another 10 million wanting to leave.

Miranda pointed out that unlike the biblical diaspora, where the Jews had to learn because of external enemies, our diaspora is because of hunger, unemployment and hopelessness, poverty explanatory fellow Filipinos.

The Philippines, he said, was like a patient in the intensive care unit. No, he was hospital as he declared he knew it is not dentist. He also pointed out the most important capital in the country is not its forests, its mineral wealth, its resources or *ginto*." The ability to think, as well as investment, during times and the willingness to sacrifice. Our leaders, our work.

But even with all that capital, he warned, our biggest enemy is the evil, especially if we allow selfishness to overcome our natural desire to help our fellow Filipinos.

The professor spoke a day before the President, but he was referred to our search for the right path advising that there's more to our journey than eating magic. Do the math, even computerized to actual marks!

He also reminded us that we need to look at UP students not just as "bright ng bayan" (prophets of the people), as "tabak para sa bayan" (scholars for the people).

Miranda's speech was so resonant with the valedictory delivered, appropriately by a political science summa cum laude graduate, Jayson Agulia, who encouraged UP to keep producing scholars for the people, and which he says I UP are actually placing their lives. This is when I first thought about "daring to dream" because that's what's happening with UP Filipinos hope that they will "win" with them best. Surely Aquino observed, UP is indeed the love car, in Miranda's words used in his valedictorian speech, a mega train. The students, he said, are the country and UP is the only university actually. As with many love players, many Filipinos love most of the time.

Agulia reminded the audience how it is the passion of Filipinos who save their the most to be able to keep UP going. The dreams and hopes are simple: a home, their meals without having to go into debt for a can of sardines or a kilo of rice, learning the kids finish school.

But he talked too of grander dreams and hopes, especially for leaders who can lift the country out of poverty.

The last two graduates I want to honor have been powerful, given how we keep losing here. In my own consciousness speech in Tacloban, I wondered aloud if perhaps the nation would be better off if we didn't have UP graduates starting up as presidents.

On Friday I will continue to describe the constant struggle between pessimism and optimism when it comes to UP and why now that the candidates are cited, I strongly feel there's reason to continue to dream and to hope.

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E-mail: rtee@inquirer.com.ph

A 'last recourse' to be heard

LETTERS

FOR HIM in behalf of our members, the Minister and Maintainer Independent peoples of Tagaytay-Cagsbatan, Clarin, Esteban del Norte, may we call public attention to our situation here in our community.

Our place is very rich in mineral resources—nickel, iron ore and many others—worth billions of pesos, mining companies have been operating here for years. Among them are Tagaytay Mining Corp. (TMC) and Philnickel Group of Mining Companies (PGMC). They started operating in 1980.

While these companies have earned billions of pesos from our ancestral land, we, the native residents, remain miserably poor. Most of all, the destruction of our environment here has reached a critical stage.

There are existing laws—e.g., the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 (Ipra law) and Mining Act of 1995—that are supposed to promote our economic and social well-being. These mining firms are bound by law and corporate social responsibility to guarantee that we, the biggest stakeholders, get our share of benefits from the mining operations. However, we have been deprived of the privileges and benefits due us under the law.

We have already brought our case to different government institutions and agencies—Mabuhay, Congress, Senate, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, MNR-Milan and Governors Bureau, and local government units—but until now no one of them has taken a concrete action to address our woes, we continue to be ignored and robbed. Our greatest, deepest because the concerns of the mining companies are very rich, powerful and influential.

This letter to the Senators is a cry of "last recourse." We are so frustrated and we are tired of wrestling with the system we have in our government.

—CHERRY B. SOTO, chairman of the board, Samahang ng mga Katutubo, Matatag Tribo sa Tagaytay, Clarin, Esteban del Norte at Sariguo del Sur (or chairperson), c/o cpabmont@yahoo.com.ph

SSS-Tarlac spurning ruling favoring pensioner

I AM an SSS member (02-0004487-1) enrolled as Permanent Total Disability benefits under Presidential Decree 626, as amended, this is according to the decision issued by the Court of Appeals (CA—GR. SP No. 105015 (April 30, 2009). What SSS-Tarlac did was to give me my benefits, effective on the date I filed my claim (which was on Sept. 25, 2006), lamentation the date the action of action since (which was my separation date) to the employment, July 31, 1997).

In response to a Motion for Clarification, the Court of Appeals, in a Jan. 18, 2011 resolution, ruled that the effectivity of my Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefit should be July 31, 1997, the date of my retirement from employment.

The SSS legal Department received the resolution on Feb. 3, 2011 but it never interposed an objection to it. In fact, the department issued a memorandum calling for the immediate payment of back wages to me, effective July 31, 1997.

Until now the servicing branch, SSS Tarlac, refuses to pay my benefits because, allegedly, I have yet to submit all my children's birth certificates and, if they are married, also their marriage contracts. All my children are more than 21 years old and married. According to the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of PD 626, as amended, children who are above 21 years old, especially if married, are no longer dependents and can have no claim to that benefit. I am still alive and I am the sole beneficiary as far as that benefit is concerned.

SSS-Tarlac's refusal is just a delaying tactic and is meant to deprive me of something that is due me. I am appealing to the SSS President and CEO Emilia B. Quimson's intervention with SSS branch.

—GREGORIO S. SUBA JR., 20 Juan Sumulong St., b-16 San Pepe Cojangco Homes 1, Cut-Cut, Hacienda Luisita, 2301 San Miguel, Tarlac City

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BDO

Questions 'doubting' Conrad should answer

AFTER COMMEMORATING the glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus on Easter Sunday, I was saddened to read Conrado de Quiros' April 25 column ("Doubts and reservations"). He said, "The strongest thing in the Church's predilection for taking authoritarian stand things is has no firm hold knowledge about." He was referring to the comments of the Pope about human suffering such as war, and those of the bishops' about the Reproductive Health Bill. He said that the Church's answers to people's sufferings "did not carry with them the weight of experience, the immediacy of being in a physical or psychological position to appreciate the impact of the questioners's despair. He asked "why the Church doesn't give away its possessions and live free resembling those of unjustness and Ecclesiam to lower understand compassion, which Christ's father was, and Salvation, which he himself was.

Like most De Quiros comments the Church, I now question from whose values he finds his authority to judge the Church? Has he tried to see the unending beyond the appearances of the existence of the Church? Has he witnessed the lives of priests, nuns and lay men and women who live with the poor and share their lives and sufferings? Has he really listened to the position of the Church on the RH bill without judgment and tried to see the wisdom of the Church's pronouncements that the RH bill will destroy the family? Has he been truly faithful in forming his conscience?

I am saddened by the constant attacks made on the Catholic Church, especially when it comes from its very own members. Many think that the Church has grown irrelevant, out-of-touch, outdated. But many Catholics have lost their connection with the Church and are now unable to appreciate its relevance and wisdom. I challenge all Catholics to go back to their churches and try to understand why the Church is against the RH bill, when it insisted that Pope's counsel to the Japanese girl asking about suffering, and to the mother whose son is in coma. Let us rediscover our Mother Church and be guided by her infinite wisdom and love.

—GREGORIO, ggsub@yahoo.com

A challenge for TV5

NO DOUBT it continues if the welfare of the children and young minds is at stake.

Willie Revillame has not shown to host a game show, but he has to be seen packing from TV5 and not be allowed again to do the same job in any television network in the future.

The issue is no longer his behavior in his program where he rarely "apologizes" to "insult" an offender. The issue is his influence, besides his being unusually bad mouthed.

From MR-Chi to TV5, the arrogant, reckless, cannot, insensitive, insolent, impudent, arrogant and haughtiness Revillame has displayed in front of his audience have remained undisturbed. And he does not deserve to be considered as a model, much unlike his persona Jun Sharad Sobrad. Jun Jun's one to just another manifestation of the boorishness that Revillame jealously is made of. It could happen only when a group of attending "rantings" is a wild, frenzied spree. That happened in a TV show watched by millions of people, young and old, it pathetic.

Revillame's offense is not just against the law and his parents, it is as much an offense against the Filipino nation.

As the Kapuso network's management, the challenge now is to take a tough and courageous action in favor of decency against vulgarity, in favor of the rest personality against the "indecency" of Willie Revillame TV5, a true decency means income and that of the whole network.

—RENOR SILVERIO VILLANUEVA, renorsilvestre@yahoo.com

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Noy orders Palace security cluster to meet today

By Christine O. Avendaño
Donna Pazzibugan
and Marlon Ramos

THE SECURITY cluster of Malacañang is scheduled to convene today amid security threats in the country following the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

President Aquino said yesterday that he had directed various local security, intelligence, police, defense, finance and justice officials to convene and evaluate the threats.

Expected to attend the meeting are National Security Adviser Cesar Garcia, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Eduardo Oban, Police Director General Raul Bacalzo, National Bureau Investigation Director Magtanggol Gatdula, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin, Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo and Justice Secretary Leila de Lima.

"They are preparing their evening brief. They will be meeting (today) at 9 a.m.," Mr. Aquino told reporters after heading a mass oath-taking of new officials in Malacañang.

The President said he would be getting the "official" report of the security cluster soon but added that at this time there was "no specific" threat against the country.

Threat assessment

Mr. Aquino's directive for a threat assessment in the country came a day after bin Laden was killed by US forces in Pakistan where he had been hiding.

Bin Laden's death has prompted the Aquino administration to step up security measures in the country.

The Abu Sayyaf, a terrorist group in the country, is known to have links with al-Qaida and the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Defense and military officials said the Philippines was not a priority target of al-Qaida to avenge its leader's death.

But officials, nevertheless, called for increased public vigilance.

TIGHT SECURITY An airport policeman carries an assault rifle while manning his post at Naia Terminal 1 on Tuesday as government authorities tighten security in the country's airports following the killing of Osama bin Laden. AFP PHOTO

"We are a low priority (target) except that we are host to the US embassy and US nationals here," Defense Undersecretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters.

The Armed Forces vice chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Reynaldo Mapagu, said al-Qaeda was expected to go after the United States and European nations.

"But of course even if we are a low priority, the mere fact that we are on al-Qaida's list we should remain vigilant," Mapagu said.

Two members of the House of Representatives also downplayed the possibility of a retaliatory strikes against the Philippines.

Bayan Muna Rep. Neri Javier Colmenares said he believed that bin Laden had no direct contact whatsoever with the Abu Sayyaf.

Focus on US

Marikina Rep. Rodolfo Bernas, a former AFP chief of staff, shared the same view. "If ever there is (a retaliatory action), the focus would be the United States and those countries actively involved in the global war against terror," he said.

Bataa said the Abu Sayyaf had been largely "isolated" in Mindanao. Official estimates placed at 300 the number of active Abu Sayyaf members.

He said the spate of kidnapping and extortion activities by suspected Abu Sayyaf members was an indication that they were in dire straits.

"Such activities are for their survival, not operational," said Bataa. They have to produce money to survive. There is less and less support from the local populace," Bataa said.

He said the objective was to finish off the Abu Sayyaf or reduce it to a minimal threat by 2014 or 2015 when the military plans to shift from internal security to external security operations.

Best time to take out Abu

Chief Supt. Agrimero Cruz Jr. said "now is the best time" to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf.

"We call on our Muslim brothers to join us in our fight against terrorists. We know that Islam does not tolerate terrorism. It's the bane of our society," said Cruz, spokesperson of the Philippine National Police.

"This is our best chance," he said.

Cruz said the entire 151,000-strong police force was placed on full alert on Monday shortly after US President Barack Obama announced that American forces had killed Bin Laden.

With a report from Cynthia D. Balana

Abu Sayyaf threat in PH stays despite Bin Laden's death

By Arlyn dela Cruz
Correspondent at large

AL-QAEDA CHIEF Osama bin Laden, killed by US special forces in Pakistan on Monday, never set foot in the Philippines but his network—the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group, like the Abu Sayyaf, operating in the remote southern Philippines islands.

On Sept. 11, 2001, when bin Laden's minions slammed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—symbols of US economic and military might—armed men in the jungles of Basilan raised their guns and exclaimed, "Allahu Akbar (God is Great)!"

They were members of the al-Harakatul Al-Islamiyya, or the Abu Sayyaf Group, a gang involved in bombing attacks and kidnap-for-ransom activities.

Their jubilation was witnessed by several hostages they had taken from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan, the Jose Rizal People's Lyceum and a seminal plantation in Talisayan. The hostages included the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham.

2 Yevarods

The Burnhams were not the only foreigners in the area. There were also two Yemenis, who joined the Abu Sayyaf in exposing their glee as they listened to accounts of the deadliest twin attacks on American soil.

After the jubilation, the Yevarods led the group in prayer, as past for the night and left the following day.

This correspondent reported in the Inquirer the presence of the two Yemenis in Basilan a few weeks after the 9/11 attack, based on an account given by a construction worker taken hostage in Sumisip in 2000 and Sulaimani was slain the following year.

Most of the hostages were eventually released but Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap died in a military rescue operation when tried to the recovery of Burnham's wife, Gracia.

Real purpose

The significance of the presence of the two Yemenis in Basilan was not obvious then, except that they arrived days before the attack on the United States and that they spent hours talking with the top Abu Sayyaf commanders, based on accounts given by the captives.

The real purpose of the visit of the two Arabs was explained months later by Janjalani to his talk with supporters in Mindanao.

In recorded messages obtained by intelligence units, Janjalani spoke of the need to go back to the jihadist fundamentals. He also spoke of an end to the group's kidnapping activities.

Criminal operations, like kidnapping, had been the group's main source of funds, especially after there financial assistance from their Arab supporters dried up in the late 1990s following the death of the group's founder, Abdurajak Abubakar Janjalani.

Osama's in-law

Intelligence reports had identified an Arab named Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, brother-in-law of Bin Laden, as the source of financial support for the Abu Sayyaf, especially in the group's early years in 1988-1989.

Khalifa headed the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO), registered as a legitimate nongovernment and nonprofit organization designed to channel financial assistance to depressed communities in Muslim Mindanao.

IIRO also gave assistance to Islamic schools (madrasas) promoting the fanatic study of Islam, like Al-Maktabatul Islamiyya in Zamboanga City.

Holy war

Although Bin Laden was never known to have been in Mindanao, his teachings about jihad (holy war) and his anti-American sentiments reached the region's islands through Khalifa and Abdurajak.

Indeed, establishing the Abu Sayyaf, Abdurajak was a scholar in Islamic studies in Saudi Arabia. He also volunteered to fight in Afghanistan.

From Khalifa Janjalani's own admission, the 1993 visit of the two Yemenis was continuation of financial support from their Arab benefactors and links with al-Qaida.

It also meant undergoing rigorous training under the tutelage of two known personalities identified with Ayman al-Zawahiri, another terrorist group said to be directly linked with al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaida condition

Those two personalities were Omar Patek and Dulmatin, at that time already on the most wanted list of the US-based Central Intelligence Agency because of their participation in the Bali bombing in Indonesia. Patek was captured in Pakistan earlier this year.

But there was a condition attached to al-Qaida's financial support—the Abu Sayyaf would have to launch an operation similar to the 9/11 attack on the United States, according to Abu Sayyaf commanders.

In 2005, the ASG apparently did just that, orchestrating the SuperFerry bombing near Manila, in that killed more than 100 people.

Bin Laden did not only serve as an inspiration for the Abu Sayyaf. Through al-Qaida, he also provided funds.

Does the Abu Sayyaf link with al-Qaida end with Bin Laden's death?

It's not the end

The link clearly is not between personalities but among terror cells and networks.

The intrusion by the United States of a global terror alert against possible retaliatory attacks appears to be a recognition that the threat of international terror does not end with the death of Bin Laden.

US to probe support network

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top antiterror adviser John Brennan said it was "inconceivable" Bin Laden did not have a support network in Pakistan.

US officials are puzzled by the comfortable surroundings of the Abbottabad compound where Bin Laden lived, and the fact that his presence in a fortified, upscale building did not arouse Pakistani authorities' suspicions.

In another sign of mistrust between Washington and Islamabad, Brennan said US officials did not notify Pakistan of the raid until the helicopters crossed Pakistani airspace with Bin Laden's remains.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari defended his country against accusations it did not do enough to track down Bin Laden, but made no direct comment on alleged intelligence failures.

"Although the events of Sunday were not a joint operation, a decade of cooperation and partnership between the United States and Pakistan led up to the elimination of Osama bin Laden as a continuing threat to the civilized world," Zardari wrote in an op-ed for the Washington Post.

Underscoring the point, he recalling "Pakistan did its part," he added. "We in Pakistan take some satisfaction that our early assistance in identifying an al-Qaida courier ultimately led to this day."

But Zardari offered no explanation on how Bin Laden managed to live for years undetected in Abbottabad, a hillside retreat popular with retired Pakistani generals, just a few hours' drive from Islamabad.

"He was not anywhere we had anticipated he would be, but now he is gone," Zardari wrote.

Pakistan's envoy to the United States, Hussain Haqqani, promised in an earlier interview with CNN that a "full inquiry" would be held into any intelligence failures.

Angry US lawmakers demanded to know how a man blamed for killing thousands of Americans lived unperturbed in a country that receives billions of dollars of US aid.

Leaders in both Afghanistan and India said Bin Laden's discovery was time to Islamabad reinforced their claims of double-dealing by their nuclear-armed neighbor.

Elite troops from the US Navy SEALs carried out the assault, which lasted less than 40 minutes.

Residents in Abbottabad were stunned when they switched on their TV sets after daybreak to hear Obama announce that Bin Laden had been killed in their hometown, which was soon engulfed by a heavy Pakistani security presence.

"We heard helicopters circling and security people shouting, 'We saw fire and thieves coming out,'" said a resident too frightened to give his name.

Until now, Bin Laden had always managed to evade US hunters, despite a $25-million bounty on his head, and was most often thought to be hiding in the rugged mountainous terrain along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

His presence in Abbottabad—a leafy town home to or elite Pakistani military academy—heightened doubts about the international government's zeal for prosecuting the war on terror.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said "cooperation with Pakistan helped lead us to Bin Laden and the compound in which he was hiding," but Internet's more detailed assessment revealed the indispendence of the US operation. AFP

Notice to Passport Applicants

Due to the recent unprecedented increase in passport applications and other technical concerns, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is currently experiencing a back log in the processing and releasing of passports.

The DFA is exerting all efforts and is working diligently to resolve this problem. The following measures have been put in place:

- DFA will extend passports of applicants up to one (1) year, free of charge, while waiting for the release of their e-passports.
- Effective 04 May 2011, passport processing services will be available until 8:00 PM on weekdays and on Saturdays, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

OFWs and applicants with emergency cases (medical concerns and death in the immediate family) are advised to go to the Passport Director's Office at the ground floor of OCA-ASEANA Bldg. along Macapagal Ave. for assistance.

The DFA advises the public to apply for passports at least twelve (12) weeks before their intended date of travel.

The DFA requests the public's understanding, particularly those who applied at our Regional Consular Offices (RCOs), for this situation. The DFA is committed to resolve these problems at the soonest possible time.

For additional information, the public may call the Office of Consular Affairs at telephone nos. 737-1000 and 536-0000, send an email to ocaa@dfa.gov.ph or visit the DFA's website (www.dfa.gov.ph).

Thank you very much.

Coming soon: Bin Laden, the movie

LOS ANGELES—It is only a matter of time before Osama bin Laden's killing by crack US forces is made into a Hollywood film—and one Oscar-winning director could be ahead of the pack.

Kathryn Bigelow, who won an Academy Award in 2010 for "The Hurt Locker," was already working on a movie about the al-Qaida leader's death...reliable sources could not confirm after Monday's covert operation in Pakistan.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, Bigelow has already been discussing a project possibly entitled "Kill Bin Laden," based on a previous botched attempt to get the al-Qaida chief.

She and her screenwriting collaborator Mark Boal—who worked with Bigelow on the Iraq war drama "The Hurt Locker"—have been meeting with actors for the action-thriller project, which the shock developments in Pakistan overtook.

"But now that Bin Laden has been killed, what happens to the Kill Bin Laden project?" the Hollywood Reporter said, adding that the original project was based "on a failed Black Ops mission by the US military to capture the al-Qaida leader."

Worldwide interest

There is a long history of movies based on real events, from "JFK" to "Titanic," or more recently "United 93" about the heroism of passengers who prevented a fourth plane from hitting its mark on 9/11.

Bin Laden's actual death could definitely help the Bigelow project, especially since it is in the relatively early planning stages, and the industry daily.

"We can't imagine the events surrounding the killing not being incorporated into the scripts it soon follows," it added.

At the same time, there is a risk that Bigelow could "lose interest, it added, "especially given all the other Bin Laden projects that still likely will be attached to captains at the intense worldwide interest in this subject.

Timing

Rival daily Variety, meanwhile, said that Boal's untitled script about the US operations hunting Bin Laden centers on the very team that wound up killing the al-Qaida leader.

Sources close to Boal told Variety that he was still working on the script, and would definitely include the 40-minute firefight at the compound in Pakistan, where Bin Laden was shot to death.

"For him, the timing of Bin Laden's death could hardly be better: Had it come much later, making changes would've been a scramble, but it's still late enough to maximize the movie's timeliness," it said.

The Hollywood Reporter said it remains unclear whether Bigelow and Boal—who earlier was a former journalist to find out more details of the Pakistani operation—would spend this week figuring out their next moves.

"The next few weeks will likely be a sea of new Bin Laden projects, especially as the details of the US mission to kill him become known," it added.

Book on its way, too

Television will likely fight out a few quick movies if history is any guide. Within six months of the successful Israeli hostage rescue mission in Uganda in 1976, two television movies had been broadcast.

The rescue of US soldier Jessica Lynch by Special Operations forces in Iraq also got a similarly quick turnaround date in 2003.

Can't wait for the film? How about the book?

An interesting coverage from some coincidences, former Navy SEAL Jesse, are and Jamil sniper Howard Wasdin is bringing forward the publication of his memoir by two weeks to next week.

Authorities have SEAL commandos carried out the raid to Pakistan that led to the killing of Bin Laden.

"SEAL Team Six" is about Wasdin's Navy SEAL training and his service in Somalia during the 1990s. Even though the memoir has been nothing to do with Bin Laden, Bulfpress's studios has rushed Wasdin's agent on Monday.

"This story is really on every one in Hollywood's mind right now so it's probably going to be a while before you can do this type of story," Scott Miller told Reuters.

Mucha character

Bigelow has built her career on stories that are more than the characters, whether it's bank-robbing mobsters in "Point Break" or adrenaline-addicted bomb squads in "The Hurt Locker."

She became the first woman to win the best director Oscar last year for "The Hurt Locker," a nerve-jangling movie about a US Army bomb disposal squad in Baghdad.

The low-budget drama, based on a screenplay by Boal after he was embedded with a bomb squad in 2003, beat the $500 million sci-fi epic "Avatar," directed by her ex-husband James Cameron, at the 2010 Academy Awards. Reports from AFP and Reuters

Bin Laden buried at sea to prevent ...

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in the appropriate way."

But some Islamic scholars and clerics were divided on Monday over whether the sea burial, off a US aircraft carrier in the North Arabian Sea, was appropriate or an insult to Muslims.

The Indonesia Ulema Council (MUI), the country's highest Islamic body, ascribed the US decision to bury Bin Laden at sea.

"[For] a Muslim, whatever his profession, even a criminal, [the] rites must be respected. There must be a prayer and the body should be wrapped in white cloth before being buried in the earth, not at sea," MUI chief Amidhan said. "Many others have condemned it, especially as it was done with extraordinary hatred against him."

ID by wife

According to a senior US intelligence official, after members of the Navy SEALs killed the man they believed to be Bin Laden at a compound in Pakistan on Monday, General Intelligence Agency agents compared DNA samples with the profiles of several family members in southern Islamabad, finding a "virtually 100 percent" match.

One of Bin Laden's wives, who was living in the compound, identified the body, the official added. The agents also were compared photographs of the body with known photographs of Bin Laden.

Brennan said the various forms of identification created "a growing sense of confidence and a growing sense of incompatibility."

"I don't know what's one 'else' when people say you know, OK, the DNA results came in," he said. "No, this is something that was building over time, and as we made a decision on the last night, because we felt as though we were confident enough to go out to the American people and out to the world, in my view got him."

No photos—yet

The Obama administration has not yet decided whether to release photographs of the body, Brennan said.

The Administration over whether to release the photos has reflected the administration's desire to end speculation about whether the man killed was really Bin Laden—and its fears that the pictures would inflame anti-US jihadists.

Defense officials said the administration had reached out to one other country to take the body for burial but that the country refused.

One official who, like others, quoted in this article spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules imposed by the administration would not name the country, though some news outlets have cited Saudi Arabia, where Bin Laden was once a citizen.

Brennan said that appealing to other countries would have extended the time frame that Islamic custom required of burial within 24 hours of death.

After the firefight in Bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, military forces transferred the body to the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, in the North Arabian Sea, first making an unspecified stop en route, a senior defense official said.

With only a small group of witnesses, a military officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a "native speaker," the official said.

The body was placed on a board, tipped up and then "eased into the sea" from the carrier's lowest deck, the official said.

It was unclear on Monday to what extent the thousands of sailors and other personnel aboard the Carl Vinson were aware of the burial, as it was occurring. The official did not identify the source speaker or say whether he was a Muslim cleric.

'Shrines are powerful'

Akbar Ahmed, the chair of the Islamic studies department at American University, said the sea burial prevented Bin Laden's resting place from becoming a focus for demonstrators.

"Shrines are very powerful," he said. "Thrones of controversial figures in Muslim history become centers to attract the angry, the disenchanted. The shrine bestows powers of religious charisma. If they allowed Osama bin Laden to be buried in Pakistan, his followers would show up, and his grave would definitely become a shrine has healing powers, especially among the uneducated. His myth would continue to grow."

On the other hand, Ahmed said, the secretive burial at sea may also give rise to anger and speculation about whether Bin Laden is really dead.

"You really want to see him. When something like this is done under cover of dark, it leaves a lot of people asking questions," Ahmed said. *New York Times News Service; with a report from Agence France-Presse*

Indon militants mourn Bin Laden's death

JAKARTA—A violent vigilante group known as the Islamic Defenders Front announced plans to hold a "mass prayer" for Osama bin Laden in this capital city of the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation on Wednesday.

Indonesian police were invited to "express gratitude to the late martyr Sheikh Osama bin Laden," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's coalition government, which includes the conservative Muslim Prosperous Justice Party, has failed to ban such groups despite their frequent violence attacks on minorities and moderates.

The Indonesian President's office issued a statement that Bin Laden's "war on terror" condemned the killing of the world's most wanted terrorist and alleged mastermind of the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

"The President has certainly learned the terror about bin Laden's death and was recently learned in the speech of US President Obama," his spokesperson Julian Aldin said in the first official Indonesian reaction to the news.

"The President said Indonesia has a common spirit with other nations in fighting against terrorism," Pardin said.

Indonesia has been hit by multiple terror attacks including the 2002 Bali bombing that killed more than 200 people, mainly Western tourists.

Its US-backed counterterrorism army have has killed and arrested dozens of Islamist militants since 9/11, including leaders of the regional network Jemaah Islamiyah (JI).

But the Southeast Asian archipelago of 240 million people—88 percent of whom are Muslims—remains home to a radical fringe with sympathies for Bin Laden's campaign of global jihad, or "holy war," against the West.

Bloody razor only

Southeast Asian terror networks appear to believe that the killing of Bin Laden will be a fatal blow to Pakistan. In the aftermath of a bloody razor, rather than a body blow, to their jihadist cause.

"If the news is true, we should all be happy," read the reaction to the news on an Indonesian website run by a combined militant movement known as the "Friends of Jihad." "It was his dream to die as a martyr in the way of Allah," it continued. "Muslims need not worry. With or without bin Laden, Islam will continue and, God willing, other Sheikh Osamas will emerge to replace him."

Irfil Sirad, chair of Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, the moderate Muhammadiyah Osama would be "sad" that Bin Laden's demise has "not automatically weakened radicalism from the roots."

"Still, have to be continuously vigilant as radicalism has existed for a long time and it will always exist, finding a 'virtually 100 percent' match.

One of Bin Laden's wives, who was living in the compound, identified the body, the official added. The agents also were compared photographs of the body with known photographs of Bin Laden.

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Markdown
Madness Sale invades Enterprise Center Makati

Markdown Madness super sale goes to the 12th Floor of Enterprise Center in Ayala Avenue, Makati City on May 2 to 6, 2011 to provide tremendous value-for-money offers on Skechers, Ecko Unltd, Zoo York, Pony, Mamet and NO FEAR to Makati denizens.

Shoe lovers will delight at the wonderful selection of footwear for adults, teens and even kids from Skechers, Zoo York, Ecko Unltd, Pony and Mamet sold at a discount of up to 70%.

Those looking for great values on branded apparel will appreciate the host of fashionable shirts, polos, jackets, hoodies and shorts, jeans and underwear from No Fear, Zoo York and Marc Ecko.

Credit card holders of participating banks also enjoy 0% interest on purchases made during the sale.

Markdown Madness doors open at 10AM and close at 8PM daily to give people more time to shop.

The summer really heats up with great bargains and great shopping at the Markdown Madness sale event this May 2 to 6 at the 12th Floor of the Enterprise Center, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Epic raid, kill like story from spy thriller

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most expensive, expensive and exasperatingly clandestine was over. The men frame of Osama bin Laden, America's enemy No. 1, was placed in a helicopter for burial at sea, never to be seen or heard of again.

It makes that spook a decade, surrounded by no failure to match the most responsible for nearly 3,000 fiery deaths in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001, is long but had its moment of humility, at least in this one difficult chapter.

For an intelligence community that had endured soaring criticism for a string of intelligence failures over the past decade, Bin Laden's killing brought a measure of redemption. For a military that has dogged through two, and now three wars in Muslim countries, it provided an unalloyed success. And for a president whose tenure is still relatively young but has come under question, it proved an affirming moment that will cast the longest looks.

Years of painstaking work

The credit was for culmination of years of painstaking, often tedious work, including the interrogation of CIA detainees in secret prisons in Eastern Europe, where sometimes when was not said was as useful as what was. Intelligence agencies everywhere pored over the trail and e-mails of the country's Arab family in a Persian Gulf state and pored over satellite images of the compound in Abbottabad to determine a "pattern of life" that might decide whether the operation would be successful or the operation would be over.

As more than a dozen White House, intelligence and Pentagon officials described the operation on Monday the span five weeks were a nerve-racking amalgamation of what-ifs and surprises that included "theft-proof" a morning when someone didn't mention black-hawk flyers," a senior administration official said, referring to the disastrous 1993 battle in Somalia in which two US helicopters were shot down and eight of their crew killed in action. The failed mission in secret hostages in Iran in 1980 also loomed large.

Administration officials split over whether to launch the operation, whether to wait and continue monitoring until they were more sure that Bin Laden was really there, or whether to go for a less risky bombing assault. In the end, President Barack Obama opted against a bombing that would have risked collateral damage it might be uncertain whether Bin Laden was really hit, and chose to send in commandos. A "right you very out" option was built into the plan, with two helicopters following with two backup choppers in case of trouble.

'Geronimo EKIA'

On Sunday afternoon, as the helicopters raced over Pakistani territory, the president and his advisers gathered in the Situation Room of the White House to monitor the operation as it unfolded. Much of the time was spent in silence. Obama looked "stone-faced," one aide said. Vice President Joe Biden frequent his comfy hands. "The minutes passed like days," recalled John O. Brennan, the White House counterterrorism aide.

The code name for Bin Laden was "Geronimo." The president and his advisers watched from a Pentagon, the CIA director, on a video screen, narrating from his agency's headquarters across the Potomac River what was happening in the many Pakistan.

"They've reached the target," he said.

Minutes passed.

"We have a visual on Geronimo," he said.

A few minutes later: "Geronimo EKIA."

Enemy killed in action. There was silence in the Situation Room.

Finally the president spoke up.

"We got him."

Years before the Sept. 11 attacks transformed Bin Laden into the world's most feared terrorist, the CIA had begun compiling a detailed dossier about the many players inside his global terror network.

Filling in the gaps

It wasn't until after 2002, when the agency began round-the-clock interrogations of detainees—and subjecting them to bouts of brutal interrogation tactics in secret overseas prisons—that they finally began filling in the gaps about the four soldiers, couriers and money men Bin Laden relied on.

Prisoners in US custody told stories of a trusted courier. When the Americans ran the man's pseudonym past two top-level detainees—the chief planners of the Sept. 11 attacks, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ali al-Qaida's operational chief, also living al-Libi—the men claimed never to have heard his name. That raised suspicions among interrogators that the two detainees were lying and that the courier probably was an important figure.

As the hunt for Bin Laden continued, the spy agency was being buffeted on other fronts. The botched intelligence assessments about weapons of mass destruction leading up to the Iraq War, and the intense criticism for using waterboarding and other extreme interrogation methods that critics said amounted to torture.

Hiding in plain sight

By 2005, many inside the CIA had reached the conclusion that the Bin Laden hunt had grown cold, and the agency's top-clandestine officer ordered an overhaul of the agency's counterterrorism operations. The result was Operation Cannonball, a bureaucratic redistilling that placed more CIA case officers on the ground in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

With more agents in the field, the CIA finally got the courier's family name. With that, they turned to one of their greatest investigative tools—the National Security Agency began intercepting telephone calls and e-mail messages between the man's family and anyone inside Pakistan. From there they got his full name.

Last July, Pakistani agents working for the CIA spotted him driving his vehicle near Peshawar. When, after weeks of surveillance, he drove to the sprawling compound in Abbottabad, US intelligence operatives felt they were—also watching big, perhaps even five Ladin himself. It was hardly the spartan cave in the mountains that many had envisioned as his hiding place. Rather, it was a three-story house ringed by 12-foot high concrete walls, topped with barbed wire and protected by two security doors.

He was, said Brennan, the white house official, "hiding in plain sight."

Inside in Washington Panetta met with Obama and his most senior national security aides, including Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates. The meeting was considered so secret that White House officials didn't even list the topic in their alerts to each other.

That day Panetta spoke at length about Bin Laden and his presumed hiding place.

"It was electric," an administration official who attended the meeting said. "But as long, we'd been trying to get a handle on this guy. And all of a sudden, it was like, wow, there he is."

Weighing the options

Still, there was guesswork about whether Bin Laden was indeed inside the house. What followed was weeks of tense meetings between Panetta and his intelligence about what to do next.

While Panetta advocated an aggressive strategy, to confirm Bin Laden's presence, some CIA clandestine officers worried that the most promising lead in years might be destroyed by bombs. Others suspected the compound was being watched and spurred the al-Qaida leader out of the area.

For weeks but fall, spy analysts took detailed satellite photographs, and the NSA worked to monitor the compound's communications, including from the house, it wasn't easy: the compound had neither a phone line nor Internet access. Those inside were so concerned about security that they burned their trash rather than put it on the street for collection.

In February, Panetta asked Vice Adm. William H. McRaven, commander of the Pentagon's Joint Special Operations Command, to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., to give his details about the compound and to begin planning a military strike.

McRaven, a veteran of the covert world who had written a book on US Special Operations, spent weeks working with the CIA on the operations, and came up with three options: A bulk copper assault using US commandos, an airline with B-2 bombers that would obliterate the compound, or a joint raid with Pakistani intelligence operatives who would be told about the mission hours before the launch.

Mounting evidence

On March 14, Panetta brought the options to the White House. CIA officials had been talking satellite photos, including what Panetta described as the habits of people living at the compound. By now evidence was mounting that Bin Laden was there.

The discussions about what to do took place as US relations with Pakistan were severely strained over the arrest of Raymond A. Davis, the CIA contractor imprisoned for shooting two Pakistanis on a crowded street in Lahore in January. Some of Obama's top aides worried that Davis's case would be used to capture or kill Bin Laden might provoke an angry response from Pakistan's government, and that Davis could end up dead in his jail cell. Davis was ultimately released on March 16, going a front bound to his colleagues.

On March 22, the president asked his advisers their opinion on the options.

Gates was skeptical about a helicopter assault, calling it risky and inarmored military-ed. Biden took into account the lawlessness using cruise missiles. But a few days later, the officials removed with the news that it would take some 12 bombs of 2,000 pounds each. And here could the US officials be certain that they had killed Bin Laden?

"It would have created a great enemy, and it wouldn't have given us a body," said one US intelligence official.

Seals hold dry runs

A helicopter assault emerged as the favored option. The Navy Seals team that would hit the ground began building dry runs at training facilities on both US coasts, which were made up to resemble the compound. That they were not told who their target might be until later.

Last Thursday the day after the president released his long-form birth certificate—such "silliness," he told reporters, was distracting the country—team members began rehearsing. Obama met again with his top national security officials.

Panetta told the group that the CIA had "red-teamed" the case—shared their intelligence with other analysts who weren't involved to see if they agreed that Bin Laden was probably in Abbottabad. They did. It was time to decide.

Around the table, the group went over and over the negative scenarios. There were long periods of silence, one aide said. And then, finally, Obama spoke: "I'm not going to tell you what my decision is now—I'm going to go back and think about it some more," But he added, "I'm going to make a decision soon."

Intense hours later, he had made up his mind. Early the next morning, four top aides were summoned to the White House Diplomatic Room. Before they could later the president, he cut them off. "It's a go," he said.

The earlier the operation would take place was Saturday. But officials emphasized that cloud cover in the area meant that Sunday was much more likely.

The next day, Obama took a break from rehearsing for the White House Correspondents' Dinner that night—in which Jimmy McMillan is with him last.

Foods into Situation Room

On Sunday, White House officials received reports that Bin Laden was using the third floor of the compound as his living quarters. A staffer went in Comics and came back with a mix of provisions—turkey pita wraps, cold shrimp, pomegranate seeds.

At 2:08 p.m., Panetta described out the operation to the group for a final time. With it on hand, the CIA director began his narration, via video from Langley. "They've crossed into Pakistan," he said.

The commando team had waited into the air from a base in Afghanistan. The goal was to get in and get out before Pakistani authorities detected the breach of their territory by what were in fact two unknown forces and reacted with possibly violent results.

In Pakistan, it was just past midnight on Monday morning, and the Americans were counting on the element of surprise. As the first of the helicopters emerged in at low altitudes, neighbors heard a loud blast and gunshots. A woman who lives two miles away said she thought it was a terrorist attack on a Pakistani military installation. Then the helicopters had one had ship that Bin Laden was hiding in the quiet, affluent area. "It's the closest you can be to Britain," he said of their neighborhood.

Target on 3rd floor

The Seal team stormed into the compound—the raid would cost the group inside, one US intelligence official said—and a firefight broke out. One man was killed on the ground, including there as a shield while firing at the Americans. Both were killed. Two more men died as well, and two women were wounded. It's authorities later determined that one of the dead men was Bin Laden's son, Hamza, and the other was more the courier and his brother.

The commandos found Bin Laden on the third floor, wearing the outfit known as a shalwar kameez, and officials said they recovered bullets he was shot above the left eye near the end of the 40-minute raid.

The US government gave few details about Bin Laud statements. "Whether or not he got off any rounds, I frankly don't know," said Brennan, the White House counterterrorism chief. But a senior Pentagon official, briefing on the conditions of anonymity, said those first Bin Ladens "was killed by US bullets."

US officials insisted they would have taken Bin Laden to be custody if he did not resist, although they considered that likelihood remote. "If we had the opportunity to take Bin Laden alive, if he didn't present any threat, the individuals involved were able and prepared to do that," Brennan said.

One of Bin Laden's wives—there were two with US officials said. A picture taken by a find commando and processed through Jamal recognition software supported a 95-percent certainty that it was Bin Laden. Later, DNA tests comparing samples with relatives found a 99.9 percent match.

Computer hard drives

But the American team faced other problems. One of their helicopters stalled and could not take off, officials said. Further than he'd left into the waiting hands, the commandos moved the women and children to a secure area and blew up the malfunctioning helicopter.

By that point, though, the Pakistani authorities were streaming forces in response to the incursion into Pakistani territory. "They had no idea about who might have been on them," Brennan said. "Thankfully, there was no engagement between the Pakistanis."

As they took off at 1:19 a.m. local time, taking a crew of dozens, women and computer hard drives from the house, the Americans left behind the women and children. A Pakistani official said those children, from 2 to 12 years old, are now in Pakistani custody.

No country would take body

The Obama administration had "already discussed it is would follow Islamic tradition of burial within 24 hours to avoid offending devout Muslims, yet concluded Bin Laden would have to be buried at sea, since no country would be willing to take the body. Moreover, they did not want to create a shrine for his followers.

In the al-Qaida leader's body was washed and placed in a white sheet in keeping with tradition. On the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, it was slipped in a weighted bag as an officer read prepared religious remarks, which were translated into Arabic by a native speaker, according to the senior Pentagon official.

The body then was placed on a prepared flat board and rested into the sea, only a small group of people watching from one of the large elevator platforms that move aircraft up to the flight deck were witness to the end of America's most wanted fugitive. New York Times News Service

Operation seen live . . .

From page A1

of minute we had or what type of body that some there but it was...it gave us the ability to actually track it as an ongoing basis." Typically members of the Navy Seal team that conducted the operation wear helmet cameras that transmit sound and video to their operation centers and that data can be fed live to the White House and Pentagon.

As the Seals hovered, dismounted from the helicopters and moved toward the house in Abbottabad, Obama, the president and his advisers could only wait. Every an aide gasp!

"It was probably one of the most anxiety-filled periods of time, I think, in the lives of the people who were assembled here tonight," Brennan said last night. "The minutes passed like days, and the president was very concerned about the security of our personnel."

There hadn't been unanimity among members of Obama's team about going forward with the plan. The president had plenty of evidence to suggest Bin Laden would be found in the compound—as indeed he was—but there was no ironclad certainty he was there.

Heart-stopping moment

There were also the dangers. Anything could happen. And indeed, something did. One of the helicopters carrying the Seals stalled upon arrival in the compound and had to be abandoned. It was almost dropping out the sky.

"Seeing the helicopter in a place and in the condition that it wasn't supposed to be, I think that was one of...at least for me and I know for the other people in the room...was the concern we had that now we're having to go to the contingency plan," said Brennan.

The contingency plan of switching to a different chopper worked. In the end, as did the whole operation, and Bin Laden was shot dead. But not before the president's nerves got a serious workout.

"When we finally were informed that those individuals who were able to go in that compound and found an individual that they believed was Bin Laden, there was a tremendous sigh of relief," said Brennan. "And the president was relieved once we had our people and those remains off target."

AP

'Osama-Obama': Media struggle to get names right

From page A1

right—some of them with little success.

It didn't help that the name of the man who officially broke the news to the world, US President Barack Obama, is almost identical to that of his country's most wanted man.

Like other news outlets, The US-based Fox 45 news network tried to get the story first, but didn't quite get it right. Its breaking news in the TV crawler cited sources saying that "Obama bin Laden (is) dead."

Mainstream magazine immediately picked up the gaffe in its Twitter account: "Somebody needs a copy editor." The message included a link to the magazine's Tumblr account, which contained a screen grab of the error.

Tongue-twisting

In the Philippines, some journalists handed their hotspots while reporting on the death of the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks that killed almost 3,000 people in the United States nearly a decade ago.

Initial reports, many of them speculations from anonymous, immediately appeared via Twitter. A radio artist working for a local business paper later wondered in Filipino: "So how many Obama/Osamas/Ipsias (errors) would come out?"

In an evening newscast, a male anchor mixed up the names. He kept saying "Osama" when he meant "Obama." A fellow anchor later put emphasis on Obama's name when it was his turn to read the news.

Yesterday morning, a popular radio broadcaster mentioned "Barack Osama." He no another time mentioned on the odd similarity between the names of the US president and the international terrorist.

Both sculpcors

An opinion piece in the website of Al Jazeera even network ranked the so-called "mothers of Obama and Osama."

"Obama and Osama may rhyme," wrote columnist Lorin Sadik, a senior lecturer in Middle East politics at the University of Exeter, "but that is not their only correlation. A Pygmalion resides in both of them. They are, to an extent, sculptors."

Sadik added: "Intent, these two sculptors, Obama and Osama, are examples of two extraordinary men—when struck by the power of ideas, ideals and dreams, regardless of the cause—go on about molding their children—their ideas, dreams or puppets. Each is in love with a subsequent state, a set of ideals or dreams that they have sought to breathe life into."

Editor Teddyboy B. Molavedores
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Chiong

SPORTS

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Opening shockers

Mavs stun Lakers; Hawks trip Bulls

LOS ANGELES—The Dallas Mavericks overcame a 26-point deficit and an aggressive bribe (Bryant to steal Game One at their second round playoff series with a last-second 96-94 triumph on Monday as the two teams tipped to ring it out for the NBA trophy outlived—orthodox in their second-round playoff openers.

Dirk Nowitzki scored a team-high 28 points, including the go-ahead free throws with 19 seconds remaining, and the Mavericks worked as Bryant missed a potential, game-winning three-pointer as time expired.

Bryant finished with 36 points but could not prevent the defending champions from falling behind 1-0 for the second straight playoff series in the Western Conference.

"Nobody was unbelievable. He was on his feet everywhere and we did a good job of hanging in there and down the stretch we executed really well," Nowitzki, who also had 14 rebounds, told reporters.

In the Eastern Conference, the Atlanta Hawks continued their surprising playoff run by defeating the top-seeded Chicago Bulls, 105-95.

The Hawks, who upset the Orlando Magic, 4-2, in their best-of-seven first round series, carried the momentum into Chicago and stalked the win with a strong final quarter.

Los Angeles led, 94-92, with 19 seconds left when Fan Gasol committed a costly foul against Nowitzki on an inbounds play to set up the two free throws. After a Lakers' turnover, Jason Kidd made one free throw and the Lakers stayed in their final possession.

In Chicago, Atlanta's Joe Johnson top-scored with 24 points, making all three of his three-point attempts.

Derrick Rose, who sources said became the youngest player in history to win the MVP trophy, had 24 points and 11 assists for the Bulls, but made just 11 of 27 shots and turned left on his in the final seconds. Reuters

THE Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (right) takes a shot against the Lakers' Pau Gasol in a battle of European 7-footers.

Pacquiao, entourage back in Las Vegas

By Ray Luarca

LAS VEGAS—After stops in Cowboys territory, Manny Pacquiao and his growing entourage made a homecoming of sorts to the glitzy gambling capital, the site of some of his most memorable victories.

Pacquiao and wife Jinkee took the lead of a 13-vehicle convoy that made the 260-kilometer, four-and-half hour ride from Hollywood to the Mandalay Bay where the Filipino icon stays during fights here.

Pacquiao is scheduled to defend his WBO welterweight crown on May 7 at the MGM Grand Arena. It will be the first time since 2009 that Pacquiao will fight on this eastern coast.

The general for-pound king's last two fights—dominating victories over Antonio Margarito and Joshua Clottey...were held in Arlington, Texas, in a football stadium that the Dallas Cowboys of the NFL calls home.

Team Pacquiao members and supporters were herded into his 60th floor suite at the adjacent hotel, where they partook of a sumptuous dinner of beef steak, calderata, refugo, chicken adobo, pansit, steamed fish and steamed rice.

Pacquiao was a regular fixture in this district's suite, where he has fought 11 times, the last in 2009 when he stopped Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto to become the first boxer to collect titles in seven weight divisions.

It was also here that Pacquiao stamped his dominance with successive knockouts of David Diaz at 135 pounds, the legendary Oscar De La Hoya at 147 pounds and Ricky Hatton at 140 pounds.

Pacquiao hopes to add Mosley to his string of Las Vegas successes.

Pacquiao and Mosley will be officially welcomed Tuesday morning at the MGM Grand's main hotel lobby.

Pacquiao is currently on a 13-victory streak. He hasn't lost since dropping a decision to Erik Morales in 2005. He defeated Morales twice later and kicked off a run capped with his victory over Margarito last year, which allowed him to set the ground-breaking record for the most boxing titles in four eight divisions champion.

As of Monday evening, Las Vegas odds have Pacquiao a -800 favorite, with Mosley a +500 underdog, meaning an $800 bet on Pacquiao will let just $100 while a $100 wager on Mosley will earn $500.

Oddsmakers also picked Pacquiao to defeat Mosley in their November loss, with a $320 bet netting just $100.

That betting line seems possible since bettors are heavily putting money on the fight not having the distance.

World 10-ball tilt lures best of the best

By Nasang S. Candio

EUROMASTER

THE LEGENDS and the new stars of the game battle it out for the biggest prize in pool—the 2011 World 10-Ball Championship—set May 18 at the World Trade Center as a total of 128 players coming from 44 countries take part in the tilt event.

Mike Sisneros, the cool and calculating Finn, will attempt to win this event for the second time in three years even as Thorsten Hohmann, the recent winner of the Philippine Open, is also entered.

Traditional powers Great Britain, the United States, China, Chinese Taipei and the Philippines are expected to dominate, but some spotlight will fall on countries represented in the tournament for the first time such as Peru, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Norway, Uruguay, Oceania, Saudi Arabia and China.

Reigning world No. 1 Antonio Lining and former top-ranked Dioson Orcollo will be leading the Philippines, which hasn't won this tournament since its inception.

Darren Appleton is also part of the foreign charge that includes Ralf Souquet and Chang-tun Lin of Chinese Taipei, the winner of the recent Beijing Open.

Pia Chiu-ling, another frontrunner hail from Taipei, will be standing for tennis to serve one pool play in the event after a two-year hiatus. Also expected to shine is Japanese Yuhei Ito-hayashi.

Qualifying has actually started at the Star Billiards Center and will go on until May 7.

Floyd dropped from Ring rankings

By Ramon Matlamisha

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. has been dropped from the ranks of the pound-for-pound list of the respected Ring Magazine.

The Ring's rankings examiner to have Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao as No. 1 with WBC light middleweight champion Sergio Martinez of Argentina replacing Mayweather at No. 2 and Shane "The Filipino Flash" Mosley moving up to No. 3.

Mosley was the WBC and WBO lightweight belts with a spectacular 2nd round knockout of Mexican veteran Fernando "La Chulita" Montiel last February in Las Vegas.

Mexican legend Juan Manuel Marquez, who may face Pacquiao in a third fight sometime in November is at No. 4, followed by Thai veteran Pongsaklek Wonjongkam.

Rounding off the top ten are heavyweight champion Wladimir Klitschko, Timothy Bradley, Lucasz Jegrala, Andre Ward and Miguel Cotto.

Pacquiao, who is also the reigning WBO welterweight champion, is No. 1 in the welterweight divisional rankings with Victor Ortiz at No. 2 and five-time three-time champion Shane Mosley, who faces Pacquiao at the MGM Grand on May 7, at No. 3.

Ring Magazine editor in chief Nigel Collins told the location some two months ago that Mayweather had until May 1, 2011—exactly a year since the last fight, a victory over Mosley—to sign for a match or be removed from both The Ring's divisional and pound-for-pound rankings.

Collins said "if that happens, he won't be ranked. It will be either (if) he retires and (if) he fights again."

He said "team over here here is so confident opponents would not earn him as high a spot as he held before being dropped."

Champ lightens camp's mood

By Ray Luarca

HOLLYWOOD— Manny Pacquiao using laughter and trucked jokes so he capped his Los Angeles training at the Wild Card gym here.

His light mood caught on with Team Pacquiao, including trainer Freddie Roach.

Roach continued standing his ground that Oscar Mosley, who Pacquiao faces on May 7 in Las Vegas, will get knocked out between the fifth and seventh rounds of their welterweight bout.

The real might even come earlier.

"Three rounder! I'd bet that," Roach told Filipino journalists before the road to Las Vegas. "I have a lot of confidence in my guy."

"Manny Pacquiao goes out there really quick and does what he can do. He can end it if he wants to. If he wants to do it."

Pacquiao, though, was a bit more conservative.

In what was supposed to be a day to escape off to training, Pacquiao continued to work his abdominal muscles after a heavy gym session.

Here we say nakakalungkot. (It's better to be cruel.)," he told onlookers that included PBA greats Benjie Paras and Bernardo Hernandez.

Interviewed by a Los Angeles TV station on his training habits, Pacquiao said: "If you train hard there's nothing to worry about."

FREEKO CUP OPENS Alaska playmaker LA Tenorio tosses the ceremonial ball during the opening of the 4th FONA Freego Cup over the weekend. Also in the photo are (left) Alaska of The of Freego Jones and tournament director Horacio Lim.

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Turqueza keeps Phoenix rust I junior chess lead

Adamson sets up V-League duel vs USLS

By Cedrik F. Tupas

FORMER MVP Valenzuela Tiffany Wren finished a notched a conference-high 20 points yesterday to propel Adamson past Lyceum and into the semifinals of the Shakey's V-League Season 8 Open Conference at the PhilSports Arena in San Juan.

Reunited kept the Lady Pirates' pursuing with her well-placed attacks and the Lady Falcons bowled an open-top set win route to a 25-15, 25-15, 20-18, 25-18 victory in a little over 90 minutes.

The victory set up a semifinal showdown with Bataan team University of St. La Salle, which found enough muscle to down site-one Far Eastern U, 19-25, 25-23, 25-17, 25-18, in the first game.

The Lady Stingers and Lady Falcons start their series at 2 p.m. on Thursday at the Arena and National U court in the other semifinal tied at 1-1.

Adamson grew in strength after an opening set loss as Nicolette converted 20 of her attacks to match the output of St. La Salle standout Betty Mondala.

"My shoulder a lot of mental toughness," said Adamson coach Dulce Rome. "I never doubted my team even if we lost the first set. If they play like they'll score them to play, we won't have any problems."

The Lady Stingers will have seven guard players in the quarterfinals as Jovelyn Gonzaga and Jacqueline Alinsug return to the United States for her high school graduation. She will be replaced by University of Santo Tomas star Aiza Maliza, a new member of the national beach volleyball team.

Jovelyn Gonzaga will be La Salle's offense ground playing, replacing Bobbie Dolorado. With a report from Rand de Jesus

LYCEUM'S Dahlia Cruz smarts against Adamson's Aiza Maliza and Orla Bonting

Asi, Dondon boost Gilas; SK likely to join Fiba tilt

By Cedrik F. Tupas

SOUTH KOREA is being eyed to take Japan's spot in the Fiba Asia Championship Cup from May 28 to June 5 at the Philippine Arena in Bocaue.

Abet Guidaben, head of the local organizing committee, yesterday said the newly PBA Rumor Mill first have already sent an invitation to the Koreans, who have until Friday to confirm their participation.

Korea will be grouped with the Smart Gilas Pilipinas national team, along with Malaysia, Jordan and India, which replaced Guangzhou which bagged off due to financial reasons. Guiben said at the forum sponsored by Shakey's, Smart, Outlet Battery, Accord and Pagcor.

Considered the toughest of the nine bunches, Group B will have Iran, Syria, Qatar, Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates.

Gilas Pilipinas coach Chot Reyes has added to his do-mand veterans Asi Taulava and Dondon Hontiveros to the Smart Gilas lineup in the homecourt event for Asia's top basketball clubs.

But Jimmy Alapag and Jeffy Williams will likely miss the tournament since it comes just weeks after the PBA Commissioner's Cup finals.

Both Taulava and Hontiveros, who will both bring with them a wealth of experience in international play. Gilas talked up Smart Gilas' chances in the tournament.

The Nationals, which reached the semifinals of the Guangzhou event, resumed practices this week.

"We have an even better team because of Asi and Dondon," said Cuiben. "The team is exuding confidence right now. Winning the tournament will be a milestone for them."

Coach and Smart Gilas will play its first game at 6 p.m. on May 28 against a still-undetermined foe. The Pilipinas are using the tournament to lengthen up for the Fiba Asia Championship in Wuhan, China, in September.

GAMEBALL! Ivan Ayesbill puts up a shot against TNT's Paul Harris but Rashidi Ca-Dcompanion is blocked and indeed in Game 3 in Puerto Princesa.

Texters seek vital third win

Reyes still wary; Kings upbeat

By Marvey R. Comilla

LEADING the series at 2-1 and with momentum on his side, all that Talk 'N Text coach Chot Reyes wants is for his Tropang Texters to stay on their toes.

Coming off a lopsided loss and looking like the series underdog, Barangay Ginebra coach Tim Cone's Kings, led by Jayson Castro, are surprisingly exuding more confidence.

And that about sums up how both members are taking things heading into the critical fourth game tonight of the best-of-seven title series for the PBA Commissioner's Cup at the Smart Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

"We've been here before. 1-2 down, 1-3 down, 0-2 down," Uichico told reporters, a night after the Kings took an 86-116 beating from the Texters in the Puerto Princesa Coliseum in Palawan.

"There is no need to panic, and we won't panic," Uichico added. "We're in this Finals round you. You panic when you're in the elimination."

Courtesy will come into the 7 p.m. game needing no less than a win to stay in the series as the Texters have seemingly gotten their bearings back after a tight Game 2 loss.

And Reyes is seeking more than a repeat of that folding doesn't happen again.

"No, it wasn't a case of overconfidence," Reyes said of the Game 3 debacle after a series-opening win that was as easy as the final game-finding night.

"What happened then was we allowed them to [Gilas] to outwork us," Reyes continued. "I'm making sure that they (Texters) stay on their toes...save more than always."

Talk 'N Text's second win in the series came in basically the same manner as the first, with the Texters breaking free in the third quarter to triumph with plenty to spare.

Bulldogs battle Stags; Eagles take on Chiefs

By Jeannie W. Pays

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY goes to packed session this time against NLSA powerhouse San Sebastian in the 87th Flying V Intercollegiate Premiere Cup today.

The Bulldogs, the former varsity dominant ruler are pinning to let one of this year's tough contenders go for a fifth straight win against the Stags in Group A action at 4 p.m. at the FEMAFlying V arena in San Juan.

While the Bulldogs expect to go through the swingy three-time OAAP champion Altemo Blue Eagles will set out to the favorite when it also shoots for a fourth straight win against the Arellano Chiefs at 12:30 p.m.

Adamson, meanwhile, goes for a third win in three outings versus an unpredictable Letran side in the host Group B match at 2:30 p.m.

The Bulldogs hope to prove that their superstrength varsity can storm out just from the ordeal of sidelined rookie Ken Ono, but the team a much improved unit that includes former rookie Jesus Hechanova and Dennis Villanueva.

But the Stags, who are a 1-1 card, boast a more experienced lineup powered by Calvin Abueva, who posted a phenomenal 20 points, 18 rebounds and four assists in the Stags' no. single over La Salle, 80-81, last Wednesday.

Ronald Pascual also came up big with 23 points and 11 rebounds while Jeff Javillonar had 19 points and 7 rebounds for the Stags.

Coach Jun Mendoza, who is back at the helm after guiding the Stags to multiple championships in the past decade, said though that his immediate yet to study game plan philosophy.

"We hope that before the NCAA, we would be able to implement our system," said Mendoza.

Pacific X-Treme readies topnotch fighters, bouts

MA ARRIMADOR of talented fighters and topnotch bouts is expected when Pacific X-Treme Combat launches ONE Philippines' events starting June 11 at the Subic Bay Peninsula.

Hoping to cash in on the game's popularity of mixed martial arts, Pacific X-Treme a Gamefixed mixed martial arts event outfit, will be bringing in the finest fighters from Guam, Hawaii, the United States, Brazil, South Korea and the Philippines to jar skills at the Bowsprit hall, marking their Theater of Beauty World.

The PXC has proven to be a breeding ground for fighters who have made the jump to the prestigious Ultimate Fighting Championship and local promoter Ed Calvelo hopes they can also discover Filipino fighters who have the potential to reach the next level.

"The PXC will send a Filipino fighter to the UFC before the PBA sends a player to the NBA," said Calvo. "That's our mission."

For now, PXC's 20th professional offering, will be staged in partnership with TV5.

"They (TV5) are exactly what we are looking for and exactly like us—aggressive, young and excited about producing mixed-martial arts events and expanding the sport in the region," said Calvo.

PARTNERSHIP Pacific X-Treme Combat has teamed up with TV5 to launch the Philippine edition of the top-rated mixed martial arts battle on June 11. Shown in photo during the event signing of the agreement are (l to r) left) TV5 executives Chua De Pedro, Rod de la Cruz, and Roberto V. Ravanes and PXC promoters and 2010 FC Calvo, along with PXC ring announcers Marie Calvo-Mingo, John Paul Calvo and Kurtz Mingo.

Among the fighters who have appeared in the PXC and have seen action in the UFC are Jose Aldo, Jeremy Horn, and Eric Nelson.

Cedrik F. Tupas

Veteran trio sparks Sumos' resurgence

By Jeannie W. Pays

MALOLOS'S veteran tandem got to work early to the Sumos downed Junior Powermade 76-66, yesterday and paddled to dance of the lead in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup at Marikina Sport Center.

Red Cervantes, Rudy Lingganay and Jerojan Cabatu was spiked in a second-half tear to turn the business to their final advantage en-sample after an opening-day loss.

Earlier, Bo'd Pacific Paper coasted early for-mate Phoenix, 75-59, to snap a four-game losing spell.

Cervantes drilled a game-high 17 points to power Blue Boar on top of Group B with Cebuana Cleo-Blue and Cebu at 3-2.

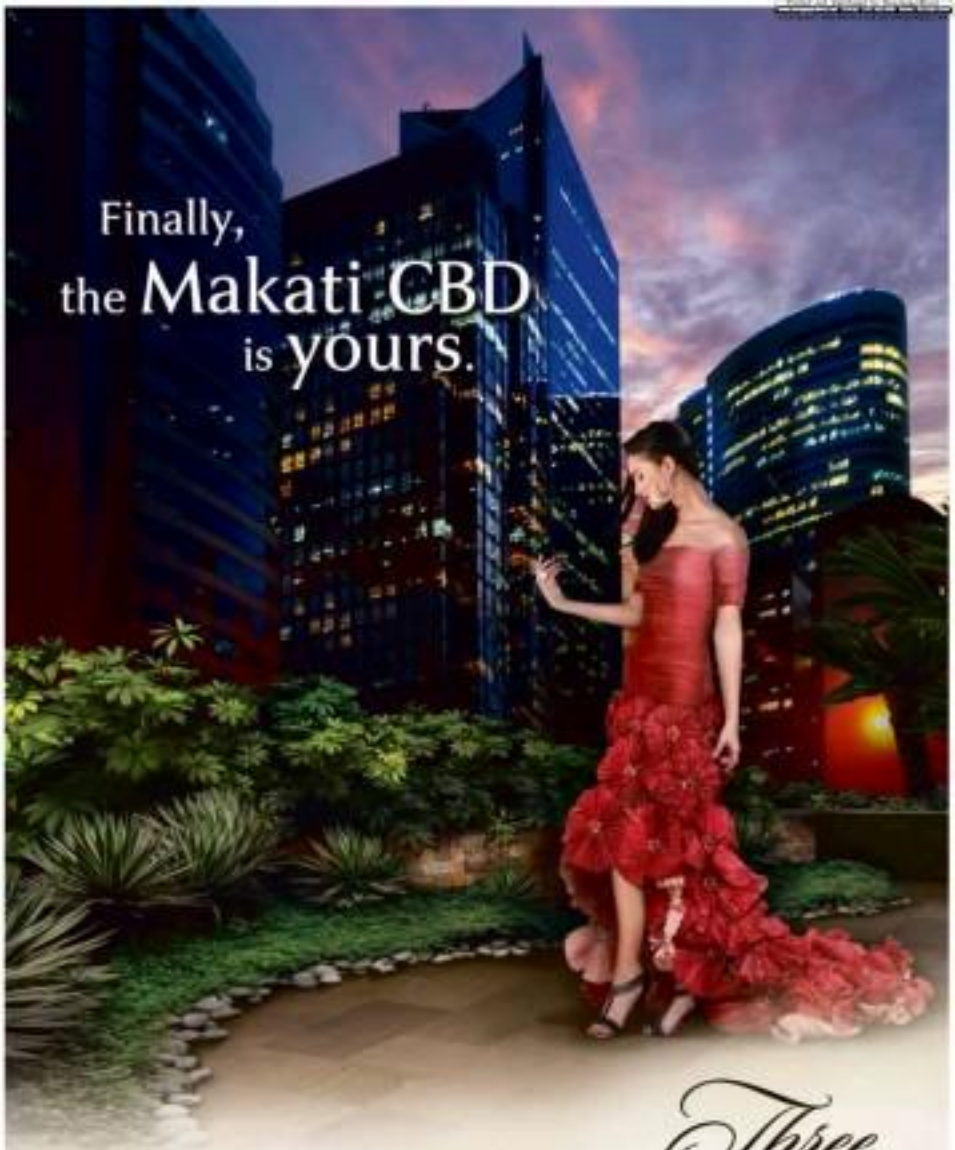
Lingganay fired 17 markers and Cabatu added 12 for the Sumos. With a report from Jeannie R. Dumaran

Ex-PBA player falls on hard times

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

Kristong Hari five turns back Libis in Coke caging



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DID YOU KNOW

TODAY, May 4, is the 94th birthanniversary of the late National Artist for Literature Nick Joaquin. Joaquin wrote more than two dozen books, including "A Portrait of the Artist as Filipino," "Tatarin (Who Had Two Navels)" and several other plays and poems. He was conferred the title of National Artist for Literature in 1976.
Scholastic Chronicle, Inquirer Research

DAVIES PAINTS PHILIPPINES INC., distributor of Megacryl, 100% acrylic latex paint and Bio-Fresh, the country's first odourless and anti-bacterial paint is now a proud member of USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council).

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DAVIES
Paint Reinvented

Honest Naia porter returns $5,600

By Tina G. Santos

A PORTER at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) who desperately needed money was sorely tempted when he found a bag which contained $5,600 in cash.

The money equivalent to over P200,000, would have been more than enough to pay for the hospital bills of his father who recently suffered a stroke.

But in the end, Manuel Aadis Jr., 37, decided to promptly return the money to its owner.

"I'm afraid of karma," Aadis, who has been working as a porter at the airport for the past seven months, said in a phone interview.

A resident of Antonillo in Pasay City, Aadis was working at the Asia Terminal 1 arrival area at around 1 p.m. on Monday when a male passenger called his attention to a maroon bag which had been left on a podium.

A check of the bag showed its owner to be Diana Kasan Dalion, a Filipino worker who had just returned from Jordan.

Aadis said he was walking toward the information counter to page Dalion when he saw a woman running toward him.

At the airport's Police Intelligence and Investigation Division, an overjoyed Dalion received the

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Cops looking for fake nurse who stole newborn baby

By Jeannette I. Andrade and Aaric M. Paracha

THE MANILA police have started looking for a woman who posed as a nurse in a government-run hospital and then stole the baby of a mother who had just given birth.

In a brief sketch of the woman, to which was distributed to the different units of the Manila Police District (MPD) showed her to be in her early 20s, around five feet tall, of heavy build and with fair skin.

At the same time, the police assured women who had just given birth in the city's hospitals to be wary of fake nurses and to keep a close eye on their newborns.

Chief Insp. Nestor Arnedo of the MPD's Forensics and Children's Protection Desk told Inquirer that the babies were being taken as fast they could be told.

"We can not yet say where these kidnappers sell the stolen babies. But several similar incidents have been reported to our office. Most of the babies I have heard recovered but newborn infants are more difficult to recover," Arnedo said.

He added that the women who were victimized did not have anybody watching over them in the hospital.

The fake nurse was tagged in the disappearance of a newborn baby girl at Ospital ng Maynila on Thursday afternoon.

The mother of the baby girl, a teenager, said she was sleeping in the maternity ward when a woman in a nurse's uniform told her a nurse registered her up and told her that she was taking her baby away to be weighed.

However, when her baby was not returned to her the following day the teenager became worried especially when the nurses on duty told her that she could go home. When she asked them about her baby, none of the nurses could account for the infant.

ARTIST'S sketch of kidnap suspect

The teenager and her live in partner immediately sought help of the hospital director who ordered a search and an investigation.

The kidnapping was also reported to the police.

Last month, another baby was stolen from a woman confined at Jose R. Reyes Memorial. The victim, who was also by herself, claimed that a woman who said she was looking after another patient, offered to take care of her. The good Samaritan, however, later disappeared with her baby.

The MPD said that aside from the two cases, there other has been but also been reported kidnapped in the city.

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits restaurant in Pasig City

AN EARLY-LONG fire hit a bar and restaurant in a commercial complex in Pasig City yesterday, destroying P1 30,000 worth of property. No one was hurt in the fire which broke out in Pakaging Bar and Restaurant inside Pioneer Center in Barangay Kapitolyo, Pasig City, at 11:30 a.m., senior investigator SF02 Teodoro Trinidad said. No one was hurt when the blaze broke out because the establishment was already for added. Pioneer Center manager Lenito Linsang said the six-story guards immediately alerted them when they reached by the scene. The cause of the fire was not yet determined. Trinidad said. Nikko Calleja

Only Makati seniors exempt from number coding

THE MAKATI government yesterday clarified that only senior residents of the city are exempted from the number coding scheme contrary to a circulating e-mail. However, elderly people from other cities can also ask for the same consideration although each request will be decided on case-by-case basis, according to city information officer Joey Salgado. In an interview, Salgado said there was a need to impose the number coding scheme in the city to manage the flow of traffic in the financial district. "As much as possible, we want to be limited to senior citizens passing through the city but we strongly discourage them from driving around Makati when their vehicles are banned on the roads," he said. Pia Morales

NPD gets new chief

THE NORTH METRO Police District (NPD) has a new head. Outgoing district director Chief Supt. Edgardo Lastor formally handed over the reins of leadership to his appointed successor yesterday in Caloocan City, in simple ceremonies held at the NPD headquarters on Dagat-Dagatan Avenue. Chief Supt. Antonio Dasuno officially took charge of the 2,000-strong police force responsible for maintaining peace and order in the cities of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela. The change in leadership was made a day after Chief Supt. Alan Purisima took over as head of the National Capital Region Police Office, replacing Director Nicanor Bartolome who was appointed chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP) headquarters staff. Lastor will take over Purisima's post as Central Luzon police head. Dasuno, who used to head the PNP Academy before his appointment, promised to implement the necessary measures to ensure the security of over one million residents of the Caloocan area. For this, he acknowledged the importance of the 2,000-strong police force as he urged his men to do their best to win their confidence. Jovelyn Valeza Mangosing

Fake antismoke belching stickers seized

THE MMDA government has cracked down on smoke belchers as the city Department of Public Services Anti-Smoke Belching Unit (DPS-ASBU) apprehended 48 public utility vehicles (PUVs) having fake emissions testing stickers yesterday morning. The motor vehicles of these 48 PUVs, supposedly cleared by the DPS-ASBU of emissions violations but proved a smoke belching test, were found to be fakes, Major Alfredo Lim's chief of staff Ricardo de Guzman said. Six fast-moving DPS apprehended after he received several complaints last week. DPS-ASBU operatives conducted an inspection on R. Papa Street near Barrio Obrero yesterday morning and flagged down several jeepneys, vans and buses bearing the stickers. The violators were reminded and the vehicles' licenses plates were seized. Jazmine I. Ilano

180 tampered weighing scales seized

By Julie M. Aurelio

A SURPRISE inspection conducted at two markets in Quezon City yesterday led to the seizure of 180 weighing scales which were found to have been tampered with.

City treasurer Edgar Villanueva said 111 weighing scales were confiscated from vendors at the Commonwealth market while 69 more were seized at the nearby Litex wet and dry market.

"This is not only for tax collection purposes. What we are doing right now is to ensure the protection of residents against unscrupulous traders," he added.

The joint operation conducted by the city treasury and market development and administration units was ordered by Mayor Herbert Bautista.

The weighing scales that were seized were found to have been tampered—meaning, buyers of about 500 grams are of rice kilo.

Assistant city treasurer Arvin Gonzales, meanwhile, cautioned market operators or vendors caught so that they do not end up being cheated by vendors.

He explained that an adjustment of 0.05 grams for a five-kilo purchase is allowed but for a one-kilo purchase, the weighing scale must be nearer to its accurateness.

"Being businessmen are not tolerated in our markets," he said.

There was no word, however, on whether the owners of the tampered weighing scales would be charged.

The team of inspectors were accompanied by operatives of the Quezon City Police District and the local police coordinating council.

Villanueva said weighing scales that were not properly calibrated were very vulnerable to manipulation.

To catch traders using defective scales, the city government will use tampered weighing scales and other measuring instruments.

The Quezon City Revenue Code requires that "instruments of weights and measures used in business should be tested and sealed annually."

There are eight public and 16 private markets in the city.

Honest porter ...

[illegible] money in her bag and [illegible] owner.

Asked if he was given any reward for his honesty, Asalo said it was enough that Sisters had thanked him.

He admitted, however, that he towards... only thought of his 11-year-old [illegible] at the sight of the money.

Rhealyn Jr., who recently suffered a stroke, has been confined at Bataan City General Hospital for almost a month now.

"Honestly, I thought of my father and his condition but I knew I wouldn't forgive myself and I would never be [illegible] by my conscience if I had kept the money. I know it's wrong," he added.

He said he also thought of the situation as a test of his character.

"It's as if his was trusting me that I know that the money wasn't meant for me so I should return it to its owner. Besides, someone worked hard for that money," [illegible] said.

Although he knows he will not be able to pay for his father's hospitalization, he said he was certain that his father would be proud of him.

Asalo said that they were forced to borrow money from loan sharks to support his father's medication.

"But it's okay. I know he's [illegible] he's happy because I did the right thing. I know God will help us get through this," he added.

Leading activist seized in Syrian roundup

DAMASCUS—Security forces on Monday rounded up hundreds of predemocracy sympathizers, including prominent human rights campaigner Ussama Abdulmajid Monajed, witnesses said.

The arrests came in the wake of the shelling of Deraa, cradle of the unrest, by a force led by President Bashar al-Assad's brother Maher.

"Ussama Abdulmajid Monajed, an Assyrian who is the most well-known activist in Syria, was arrested by security forces outside her home in the Mezza West District of Damascus," Assyrian spokesperson Jacklin Shamoun told reporters.

The 35-year-old engineer was arrested on March 16 while taking part in a silent protest in Damascus in demand the release of thousands of political prisoners in Syria.

Among them were 15 schoolchildren who had been detained in Deraa for writing freedom slogans on walls, inspired by the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions.

The arrested Assyrian activist, on wire a major cause of the emigration predominantly Christian students in the southern city.

She was released on March 17 as President Bashar al-Assad made vague promises for reforms that failed to stop mass demonstrations from spreading to other parts across Syria.

In the 6th quarter of Deraa, shelled and machine-gunned in retaliation on Saturday, security forces barred their way into houses on Monday and took away many men under 40, witnesses told Reuters by telephone.

At least 560 people have been killed by Assad's security forces since the Deraa uprising erupted on March 18, human rights groups say.

The government, condemned by the West for their repression of unrest, has blamed the violence on "armed terrorist groups." The country of 20 million people has been under martial law since Baath Party rule since 1963.

Security police dispersed an all-women protest in Aytas square in Damascus on Monday, another all-women demonstration took place in Kharbet Ghazaleh village 11 km east of Deraa.

In the central city of Homs, thousands marched on Sunday chanting "down with the regime!"

In Reuters in the south, a lone woman was held for 17 men killed when military intelligence agents fired at a protest on Friday during which the mourners were mad out of 50 people who said they were escaping from bombardment of Assad's Baath Party.

Two thousand Nasifa in the village of Kafranil near the eastern city of Qamishli attended the funeral of 20-year-old conscript Ahmad Ismat Mustafa on Sunday. They believe servicemen were forces of killing him for refusing to take part in the repression.

Ismat Mustafa refused to let the governor of the province attend the funeral of her son. "They killed and then they want to march to the funeral of the murdered," the father was quoted as saying by a witness at the funeral.

Human rights campaigners said arrests continued across the country on Monday in an attempt to quell the 6-week-old revolt. Among them were scores of men arrested in the northeastern province of Idlib on Monday.

"They are going into houses looking for people. Those are adults, university students, without a warrant," Syrian human rights campaigner Ammar Qurabi said. Reuters

Japan workers start repairs of nuke plant

TOKYO—Workers at Japan's crippled nuclear plant began pouring up equipment on Tuesday to allow the start of repairs to its cooling systems, key to bringing reactors under control after they were badly damaged in the March 11 quake and tsunami.

Soldiers moved to within 10 km of the Fukushima complex to search for those still missing following the disaster, the eleven they have come to the plant zone is began braking radiation after the natural disaster hit.

Tokyo Electric Power (Tepco) has said it may take the rest of the year to bring the nuclear plant back under control.

The company said it had begun constructing special vessels at the entrance to reactors buildings as workers can move in and out. It is also installing fans with filters at the No. 1 reactor to reduce radiation inside to one-seventieth of current levels within days.

"We want to seek out the air in the building and use the filter to remove radiation from the dust," Tepco spokesperson Junichi Matsumoto told reporters.

The 9.0-magnitude quake and massive tsunami that followed knocked out the cooling systems at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, 240 km north of Tokyo, causing it to leak radiation.

It is Japan's worst disaster since World War II and killed about 14,700 people, left some 11,000 more missing and destroyed tens of thousands of homes.

As the search for the missing continued, 360 Japanese Self-Defense Force troops began working within a 30-km radius of Fukushima Daiichi, the Defense Ministry said, the first time they have come so close since the nuclear crisis began.

People living within a 20-km radius of the plant were evacuated and banned from returning home on April 21 due to concerns about radiation levels.

Unpopular Prime Minister Naoto Kan is facing increasing calls to quit over his handling of the crisis. Reuters

Maldives protest turns violent

MALE—Antigovernment protesters in the Maldives said a group supporting the regime clashed on the streets of the capital, and police used tear gas to try to control the violence.

Several people were arrested, and some government buildings were damaged.

Thousands of people gathered at a main intersection in the capital, Male, for a silent overnight vigil on Monday for an overnight protest against government heavy-handedness in quelling pro-democracy antigovernment and scandal spending. They have been demanding that President Mohamed Nasheed step down.

But clashes erupted after a group of government supporters attacked the protesters with rocks. Both sides then hurled rocks and bottles, prompting police to use tear gas to disperse them.

It was not immediately known whether anyone was injured.

Later, the protesters briefly gathered at a different location, but police dispersed them again. Opposition supporters stormed into, on the roofs and attacked government buildings, police spokesperson Ahmed Shiyam said. He said six protesters were arrested.

Opposition spokesperson Mohammed Shaheed said sympathizers called off the protests for the night after police dispersed them. He denied attacks on government buildings, blaming unarmed people with evident bandages who infiltrated the crowds. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

10 dead in Afghan friendly fire

GHAZNI—Up to 10 Afghan guards were killed on Tuesday in a Nato air strike along a highway in southern Afghanistan, police said, in the latest friendly fire incident involving the alliance's forces. The armed guards were escorting a supply convoy to Nato bases in southern Afghanistan when they were hit in the province of Ghazni, Mohammad Hussain Faqoodi, the deputy provincial police chief told AFP. "Maybe mistaking them for insurgents, Nato helicopters targeted the guards," he added. AFP

Bangladesh OKs porno law

DHAKA—Bangladesh's Cabinet has approved the country's first ever pornography law after public scandals over a string of celebrity sex tapes, and final said on Tuesday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government said it would introduce a draft law in parliament to make production and distribution of pornographic materials punishable by up to 10 years in jail. "We don't have any law to punish those who make obscene pornographic materials and spread them through the internet and mobile phones," spokesperson Abul Kalam Azad said. AFP

Thai soldiers accused of murder

BANGKOK—A leading human rights watchdog on Tuesday accused Thai soldiers of "cold-blooded acts of murder" during political violence last year in Bangkok that left more than 90 people dead. New York-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the Thai Army used snipers and shielded civilians from gunfire during the April and May 2010 clashes staged by the anti-government "Red Shirt" movement. "Its officers gave unwarranted orders shoot protesters and armed militants shot soldiers, but no one has been held responsible," HRW Asia director Brad Adams said. AFP

Defense shield in Europe

BUCHAREST—The United States and Romania announced Monday the launch of initial missile interceptors at a former air base to the south of the Balkans country for a future defense shield, the first such deployment in Europe. The two governments have been negotiating for more than a year about the deployment of ballistic missile interceptors, which should be operational by 2015. "We have decided that the construction will start immediately at the former air base at Deveselu, in Olt county," Romanian President Traian Basescu said. AFP

Royal couple return home

LONDON—Prince William and his new wife Catherine cuddle back down to normal life on Tuesday as their secluded honeymoon in Wales ends with a helicopter ride before they take their honeymoon. The new Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were returning to Anglesey, northwest Wales, where William was to resume his day job as a search-and-rescue pilot with the Royal Air Force (RAF), royal sources said. They heard on the radio and watched on television as the world's fairytale wedding, which was watched by an estimated one billion people on the streets of London and two billion on televisions around the world. AFP

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The WORLD

Lito Lorenzo R. Gatus

Switzerland freezes Gadhafi, Mubarak funds

GENEVA—Switzerland has frozen 360 million Swiss francs ($415.8 million) of potentially illegal assets linked to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi and his circle stashed in the Alpine country, the Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Some 410 million Swiss francs moved to former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and 60 million Swiss francs linked to former Tunisian President Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali have also been identified, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lisa Knobel said.

"At the case of Libya, it was 800 million Swiss francs," Knobel told Reuters. "Those amounts are frozen in Switzerland. Following blocking orders by the Swiss government related to potentially illegal assets in Switzerland."

Both Tunisia and Egypt—whose ousted leaders sought refuge in Saudi Arabia—are in touch with Swiss judicial authorities regarding their formal requests for legal assistance to seek return of the funds and property, according to Knobel.

No such documents are underway with authorities in Libya, where Gadhafi is clinging to power in the face of an uprising and NATO air strikes.

Neutral Switzerland had previously announced that it was freezing any assets linked to the three North African leaders, thereby requiring financial and other institutions to report any suspicious funds.

The respective amounts were fairly "stable," based on information provided by Swiss-based financial institutions to authorities, Knobel said. He declined to name the banks or the various citizens in which the accounts or properties are held.

"We never specify the institutions. It is not just names, there are confidentiality issues," he said.

Swiss Foreign Minister Micheline Calmy-Rey was about on Swiss television on Monday night telling a news conference in Tunis after meeting Swiss ambassadors from North Africa and the Middle East meeting in the Tunisian capital. "The funds that Mr. Ben Ali put in Switzerland were not very significant. He did not have very good relations with his regime."

Libya's foreign minister has previously denied that Gadhafi holds funds in accounts in Switzerland or in other foreign coffers.

Relations between Switzerland and Libya soured in July 2008 when Swiss police arrested Gadhafi's son Hannibal on charges of abusing two domestic employees. The charges were later dropped after a confidential settlement negotiated with the victims.

Libya subsidiaries more than $5 billion from Swiss banks. Settled oil exports to Switzerland and barred two Swiss businessmen working in Libya from leaving the country for more than a year.

Swiss authorities also froze assets belonging to Ivory Coast's ousted deposed President Laurent Gbagbo on January.

Switzerland has courted fund in recent years to improve its image as a haven for ill-gotten assets.

Its cabinet has previously taken on blocked funds in accounts held by deposed strongmen including Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines and Nigeria's Sani Abacha, hoping laws for foreign possessors to build a case for restitution of funds.

Knobel said that Switzerland had returned $700 million, held by Abacha, to Nigeria, although it took some four to five years to complete legal proceedings.

"It was a good example of cooperation," he said.

The Swiss Finance Ministry said earlier on Monday it had started precautionary steps to secure assets of former Haitian dictator Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, frozen since 1986, to the Haitian government. Reuters

GADHAFI

MUBARAK

BEN ALI

Libyans demand revenge for deaths

TRIPOLI—Libyans shouting for revenge hosted Moammar Gadhafi's second youngest son to the thundering sound of uncensored lies on Monday, as South Africa warned that the Nato bombing that killed him would only bring more violence.

Libya's leader did not attend the homebrewed funeral of 29-year-old Seif al-Arab, but other luminaries of his family and his tattered post their respects, thronged by a crowd of several thousand, looking to get closer to the coffin, draped with a green Libyan flag, mourners flashed victory signs and chanted "Revenge, revenge for Gadhafi's children."

Three of Gadhafi's grandchildren, an infant and two toddlers, also died in Saturday's attack, which Nato says targeted one of the regime's command and control centers. Gadhafi and his wife were in the compound at the time, but escaped unharmed, Libyan officials said, accusing the alliance of trying to assassinate the Libyan leader.

State officials have denied they are hunting Gadhafi to break the months-old stalemate in the Libyan conflict, which broke out in February, with Nato jets routinely striking Tripoli. Fierce battles between regime forces, a loose collection of militias and rebel army in western Libya, which has been stalled by Libyan forces over the recent weeks.

British have repeatedly called on NATO to use more firepower against Libyan troops. "We call on the world to deal with Gadhafi just as they dealt with Bin Laden," said a Muslim Scholar, referring to the killing of terror mastermind Osama bin Laden in Pakistan by US forces early Monday. The leader only gave his first name, Osman, for fear of reprisals.

Under a UN mandate, NATO's aim is to protect civilians in Libya, but the international community has increasingly disagreed about what that entails. Western political leaders have called for Gadhafi's ouster, prompting warnings from Russia, China and South Africa that alliance air strikes have gone beyond the mandate. Alliance officials say the objective of Nato's bombing campaign, now in its second month.

Responding to the attack on Gadhafi compound, South Africa said on Monday that "attacks which were aimed at killing only result in the escalation of tensions and conflicts on all sides and make future reconciliation difficult." On Sunday Russia accused Nato of a "disproportionate use of force" and called for an immediate halt.

South Africa has attempted to mediate between Gadhafi and the rebels, proposing a ceasefire and dialogue. Rebel leaders have said they will only lay down their arms once Gadhafi and his family has fled. Gadhafi has refused.

Since the outbreak of fighting in mid-February, the Gadhafis have made only infrequent public appearances. AP

Thai PM set to dissolve parliament

BANGKOK—Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on Monday he wanted to dissolve parliament this week, as planned, but he declined to be drawn on an election date despite a report the vote would probably be on June 26.

The Constitutional Court threw some doubt on the timeframe for an election, that it is hoped will end years of polarized politics that have led to outbreaks of violence. Its delaying a decision on the legality of new electoral laws.

The poll will be the first test of support since his coalition government came to power in late 2008 in a parliamentary vote the opposition said was arranged by the military, which intensified political crisis.

Pressed by reporters, Abhisit said parliament would be dissolved before May 7, when he is scheduled to join a summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Indonesia. He has been saying since March that he would dissolve the house by the first week of May.

Asked about talk that he would submit the dissolution bill on May 6 for royal endorsement, he replied: "When it comes, you'll know about it."

"However, we have to wait for the process with the Constitutional Court to be done and there are other administrative processes to finish."

The Constitutional Court said in a statement it had given the prime minister, the speaker of parliament and the Election Commission until Friday, May 6, to present their opinions, and it did not comment on the legality of the laws.

That throws some doubt on whether parliament will in fact be dissolved that week.

A source at the court said it may rule on May 9.

An election has to be held on a Sunday, 45 to 60 days after parliament is dissolved. If the king approves dissolution this week, the vote would be on June 19. June 26 is day 51. Those dates would still hold if the coronation was only delayed a few days.

The Bangkok Post reported on Monday that Abhisit recently met the election commission, "It was tentatively agreed upon that the election will be on June 26," the daily said.

The stakes in the coming election are higher than in any since a Reuters-backed 2006 coup removed former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra from power.

That plunged Thailand deeper into political crisis as royalist-backed Thaksin and his ruling rural and urban poor supporters against the establishment elite, and drew rules down the former leader on a corrupt conviction.

Abhisit has to call an election by the end of 2011 or a poll in June or July would be a few months earlier than necessary. Reuters

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Editor Raul G. Manuelo ■ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

8 groups vie for LRT-MRT project

Ayala, SMC, Metro Pacific keen on P15-B contract

By Paolo G. Montecillo

CONGLOMERATES AYALA CORP., San Miguel Corp. and Pangilinan-led infrastructure giant Metro Pacific Investments Corp. are among the eight groups that plan to bid for the P15-billion contract to operate two major Metro Manila train lines, government documents showed.

Five foreign companies have also acquired bid documents worth P500,000 each for the project, according to the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

Bid documents for interested bidders will be available for purchase until July 14, the DOTC said. The bidding has been scheduled on July 11.

The five-year operations and maintenance contract for the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) line 1 is the first project under the administration's public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure program.

Foreign companies that bought bid documents were US-based Abrinkpac & Associates, London Stock Exchange-listed Serco Group, multinational Japanese Consor-

4 MORE ▶

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
May 3, 2011
42.900

STOCK MARKET
May 3, 2011
▼ 7.39

Stocks end lower

LOCAL SHARES closed flat for a second straight day as investors await the central bank's policy action that many hope will address rising inflation.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) closed slightly lower, ending a two-day rise that saw the benchmark nearing its highest in six months.

The index lost 0.17 percent or 7.39 points to close at 4,318.37, while the broader all-share index shed 0.17 percent or 5.78 points at 3,013.87.

STORY ON B3

SM group to build its biggest mall in Tianjin, China

SM PRIME HOLDINGS is betting big on China's booming economy as its group plans to build its biggest mall to date on the mainland. The mall is scheduled to be opened by 2013.

In a statement, the company said this was part of its expansion plan for the next two years, which would also include the construction in Cebu City of another mall—to be the biggest in the country outside Metro Manila.

"In the last 25 years, SM Prime redefined and enhanced its vision, mission and core values, enabling it to create strategies that foster sustainable growth and expansion," said Hans

By president of the group's mall-operating unit SM Prime Holdings Inc.

"A bigger and bolder SM Prime has since emerged, ready to take on the vast opportunities that will come from a robust and still growing Asian economy. Examples of this new ac-

IN TODAY'S BIZ

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SMC raising $600M from bond sale

Yield at 2% a year; convertible to common shares

By Paolo G. Montecillo

SHAREHOLDING conglomerate San Miguel Corp. (SMC) is issuing $600 million through a bond sale this week, a transaction that will help bankroll the company's infrastructure ventures.

The company yesterday released to final offering circular that showed that its dollar-denominated bonds, maturing in 2018-4, would pay an interest rate of 2 percent a year. The bonds will also be convertible to common shares coming from its treasury stock.

"The bonds will be direct, unconditional, unsubordinated and unsecured obligations of SMC," the company said.

The bond sale will follow the company's recently concluded share sale wherein the company raised $300 million.

In the last five years, SMC aggressively diversified outside of its traditional food and beverage businesses and has built up a total capacity of 3,145 megawatts through SMC Global Power. It is now the biggest power producer in Luzon in terms of installed capacity.

The redemption bonds will have a maturity of three years, a coupon of 2 percent a year and a conversion premium of 25 percent to the offer price. The bonds will be listed on the Singapore Stock Exchange.

The trading of SMC shares have been suspended since last month to make way for its bond raising activities. The stock was last traded on April 13, closing at P113 each.

Net proceeds from the fund raising will be about P11.9 billion after taxes and underwriting fees.

"SMC intends to use P12 billion for investments in its infrastructure businesses and the balance for working capital and other general corporate purposes," the company said.

The company said it was "well positioned" for significant future growth.

"In particular, SMC's established businesses in beverages, food and packaging provide for stable growth annually, while its new businesses are expected to contribute further to this growth," it said.

"SMC's recent acquisitions in the fuel and oil, power, infrastructure and refinery businesses are expected to align it to key sectors that it believes will benefit from the foreseen growth of the Philippine economy," it said.

Anchor Land net profit up 63% in 2010

LISTED PROPERTY developer Anchor Land Holdings Inc. expects 2011 to be another banner year with sales of its high-end projects seen to continue to rise amid fewer affordable demand.

The company yesterday reported that its 2010 revenues reached P1.60 billion, a 63-percent increase over the previous year's earnings of P1.65 billion and breaking through the P1 billion barrier for the first time in its corporate history.

The company said net income for the year grew 52 percent to P566 million from P373 million in 2009. Earnings per share (EPS) hit P1.61, up from P1.08 in 2009.

ALHI chair Stephen Lee said he was optimistic that the company would reach the P2-billion revenue mark in the current year.

"As Anchor Land continues to scale new heights, it enables management to look at the world from a new unique perspective, one that allows us to set our sights further and under far more opportunities to expand and grow the company," Lee said.

Lee said 2010 marked Anchor Land's fourth year of consecutive income and revenue growths since its public listing in 2007.

He said such steady climb, set against the backdrop of a global economic crisis that still impacts the financial markets, reflected the underlying strength of the company in particular and the Philippine real estate sector in general.

"Consistent and robust growth has likewise given us the financial means to pursue more ambitious projects," Lee said.

One of Anchor Land's bestsellers in 2010 was the Ayala-Main Park-unites in the Ayanna Business Park in Pasig City, the first residential development in Metro Manila's newest mixed-use district, nestled between examples of Manila Bay between the SM Mall of Asia and the Bigger Entertainment City.

Anchor Land's other projects during the year were Two Shopping Center along Ejercito Avenue in Pasig City, Anchor Heights along Oregon Street in Bitocolo, and Wharton Parkwalks along Bhanapkay Street, also in the Bitocolo area.

Lee said much of the company's growth has been supported by strong demand from clients from the Filipino-Chinese community.

Rudy G. Montecillo

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May 12-13, 2011 — **36th Key Account Management** by Emilio Macasaet III
May 19, 2011 — **7th Market Masters Conference**
May 24-25, 2011 — **54th Face-Selling vs. Managing** by Rowen Urbano
May 26-27, 2011 — **5th Consumer and Shopper Insighting for Superior Marketing Strategies** by TNS
May 26-27, 2011 — **12th Delivering Outstanding Service** by Grace Navarro Go

JUNE

June 2-3, 2011 — **45th Effective Negotiating and Influencing Skills** by Rowen Urbano
June 2-3, 2011 — **15 Steps for Setting Up Distribution** by Emilio Macasaet III
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8 groups

From page B1

...tion and Development and Japanese companies Dominico and Marubeni.

Last month, a total of 44 companies, mostly from abroad, expressed interest in the project.

However, the DOTC has been returning those bid, telling companies not likely to submit a change to suit the contract not to bother joining the bidding.

Transportation Secretary Jose de Jesus said companies were prompted to terms of their financial capability and technical expertise. Companies that were affiliated with other potential bidders were also barred from joining.

The winning bidder will get the contract to operate and manage both train lines for four years, with an option to extend by another year.

The lack of connectivity between the LRT 1 and MRT train systems has been a cause for inconvenience for the one million passengers that use both train lines every day.

Building on a single common fare for both will lead to the integration of the train lines. The LRT line 1 runs along Taft Avenue from Baclaran in Pasay City to Roosevelt, Quezon City.

The MRT, meanwhile, runs from Taft Ave. to North Avenue along Edsa.

A separate contract for the expansion of the train lines will also be put up for bidding.

SM to build its biggest mall

From page B1

...economy has not completely recovered, SM Prime Holdings Inc. is confident that the economy will continue to grow.

"We are confident that the economy will continue to grow," said SM Prime Holdings Inc. President and CEO Hans T. Sy.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. is the property development arm of SM Investments Corp., the country's largest conglomerate by market capitalization.

SM Prime Holdings Inc. is developing the mall in partnership with the Ayala Land Inc. unit Ayala Land Commercial REIT Inc.

The mall will be built on a 10-hectare lot in the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City, Metro Manila.

The mall will have a gross floor area of 1.2 million square meters and will be able to accommodate 30,000 people at any given time.

The mall will have a total of 1,000 retail units

BUSINESS

Mouth off first, retract later

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

PHOC DEFLOATION Corp. has been doing a lot of explaining lately at the local forums, what with the barrage of "good news" following several briefings held over the past months. Unfortunately these were mostly to clarify what to date and CEO Cornillasse Lapez had been brandishing to reporters.

From his declarations of a P20-billion standby funding; a P5-billion cash dividend and another P5-billion stock dividend; deals with foreign firms for the coal power plants—all these were nicely corrected in disclosures, never mind the fact that it was the company's chair himself who made those errors in the first place.

But what was more embarrassing really was PHOC-EC's declaration of a stockpiling plan in "times of extraordinary need," which was announced by no less than President Aquino himself. Barely weeks ago, he reminded, the economy, again, had to retract the announcement via another disclosure, explaining that it was not really doing any stockpiling since the volume coming this month was just good for a day's supply.

Hmmm... is there really some kind of miscommunication or a "disconnect" between the office of the chair and the rest of the company? Or was Mr. Lapez only too excited to share the good news that he failed to double check the facts first? Whatever the case may be, PHOC-EC should really learn to think twice before opening its mouth. Amy R. Remo

Reversal of fortunes

PAGE being on the verge of being booted out of the Clark special economic zone a few years ago, Omni Aviation is on its way to becoming the biggest private flying school in the country.

The flying school is in the final stages of being accredited by the civil aviation authority of China, which means the flying school will soon experience a flood of student pilots from the mainland. It already caters to many foreign students, including several from the booming Indian aviation arena.

And what a solid name and reputation it has earned for itself. From having only two aircraft when it leased the labor-damaged one in the mid-1990s, Omni is now a 27 aircraft airline, with a satellite training facility in nearby Subic Bay International Airport. It also hosts the training center of Philippine Airlines for "ab initio" pilot training...in stark contrast to many other fly-by-night pilot schools operating around the country.

Omni is one by Ben Rae Ermeni, a retired 747 pilot who was also chief flight safety officer at PAL.

According to Gomez, Omnis authorities have proposed sending as many as 5,000 pilot trainees over to train at Omni once the school receives full accreditation (as a member he is somewhat hesitant to agree to, given the highly individualized training necessary to build top-notch pilots).

Pending that development, just about anyone can learn to fly. The price tag for a private pilot's license course...a cool P300,000, or thereabouts. Joaquin L. Lucas

SMC returns

ALL eyes will be on San Miguel Corp. tomorrow when shares of the conglomerate resume trading, following a nearly three-week suspension as it sold shares to investors in order to raise its free float on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The company managed to raise P70.9 billion by selling common shares and exchangeable bonds in foreign and local investors, but not before buying the stabilizing machine gun fire of critics lapooning suddenly from all sides of trained eyes.

The market's focus will be fixed on SMC's offer price of P110 a share, which is lower than the P153 price recorded for the company's common stock before the trading halt was declared.

The question on everybody's mind, of course, is whether SMC's share price will eventually settle closer to the P110 offer price or the "last done" price of P153 (or beyond). Maricgay Ebinez-Lanuza

The taxman cometh

THE goodness of press paid by Batasan Pilipinas to the factory of lawyers has attracted the attention of tax authorities.

According to our sources, the Bureau of Internal Revenue is set to look into the books of some law firms found to have received millions of pesos in legal fees from the shuttered Ebell's bank.

Records showed that Batasan Pilipinas, until recently, had retained the legal services of no less that 14 law firms and lawyers, 10 "consultants" for various tasks ranging from public relations, media consultancy etc., and another eight lawyers and law firms for services actually rendered to the bank last year.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with being paid all that money (this is legal profession a famous for being lucrative, after all). But tax authorities want to know whether these law firms and/or lawyers declared the right amount of income (as indicated in Batasan Pilipinas's records of legal expenses) and whether they paid the right amount of taxes for them.

And to some they didn't, sorry guys... the deadline passed more than two weeks ago. Dustin L. Lucas

Get business alerts and a preview of Biz Buzz the morning before it comes out. Text ON (ING SPACE) to 4467 (PLDT subs).

Combined net income of banks surged 31% to ₱91B in 2010

By Michelle F. Remo

THE NET income of the country's banking system hit an all-time high in 2010 as industry members engaged in more profitable lending and investment activities.

According to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the combined net income of universal, commercial, thrift and rural banks in the country amounted to ₱91.1 billion last year, rising 31 percent from ₱69 billion the previous year.

The BSP said the banking sector continued to enjoy the confidence of the public as manifested by the growth in deposits. The bigger deposit base allowed banks to lend more and invest in portfolio instruments and other income-generating opportunities, the regulator said.

The central bank said the sound financial condition of banks in the country came amid a favorable regulatory and economic environment.

Higher income levels supported growth in deposits, which, in turn, allowed banks to extend more credit that aided the economy's expansion.

"Buttressed implementation of key financial sector reforms together with the improving macroeconomic environment augured well for the financial system during the year in review," the BSP said in the "2010 Report on the Philippine Financial System" that it released yesterday.

Data from the central bank also showed that the total assets—which included securities investments and loans receivables—of the banking system reached ₱6.91 trillion last year, also at an all-time high and up nearly 12 percent from ₱6.19 trillion the previous year.

Outstanding loans amounted to ₱3.79 trillion, up 8.7 percent from the previous year's ₱3.37 trillion.

Meanwhile, total deposits of the banking system hit ₱5.12 trillion, rising nearly 10 percent from ₱4.67 trillion in 2009.

Regulators said banks in the country were expected to perform favorable again this year as they enjoyed high levels of liquidity.

Officials also expressed confidence that the country's banking system would continue to aid consumption and investments, thus sustain a decent growth of the economy in 2011.

BUSINESS

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Honda, Toyota output remain halved

By Miguel L. Ho

PRODUCTION at the local units of Japanese vehicle manufacturers Honda Motor Co. Ltd. and Toyota Motor Corp. will remain at 50 percent up to the end of the month—or even longer—as they try to restock their existing parts inventories while waiting for supplier operations to normalize.

In a briefing yesterday, Honda Cars Philippines Inc. president and general manager Tatsuya Nakazato said the car maker's Sta. Rosa plant would continue to accumulate the City and Civic models, but at only half the capacity.

"The production situation for yet to normalize. There's a fluidity in the parts supply situation, so we can't really predict when production will go back to normal," he told reporters.

He related that the most critical vehicle components that various car makers, not only Honda, were having problems with in terms of supply was the automotive microchips, being supplied mainly by Japan's Renesas Electronics Corp.

The March 11 earthquake that hit the northern part of Japan damaged Renesas' Naka plant. Because supplies is much as 40 percent of the global demand for automotive microchips.

Industry leader Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. (TMP) had likewise cut production by half and implemented a three-day workweek, just to stretch its parts inventory.

In a text message, TMP vice president Rommel Ventkatesh said the affected operation schedule would last from April 25 to June 4.

Change in inflation forecast seen

By Michelle V. Ruiz

BSP expected to revise estimate given oil, wage hikes

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to revise its inflation forecast for 2011 and 2012, as higher-than-expected prices of oil and a pending wage hike are seen raising domestic prices.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. told reporters yesterday that previous inflation forecasts for 2011 and 2012 had assumed that the price of Dubai crude, a benchmark for dozens oil prices, would stay below $120 a barrel.

The actual price of Dubai crude, however, has been hovering above the $120-a-barrel threshold.

Tetangco added that the central bank assumed that the government would approve a P125 hike in the daily wage.

Pending proposals in wage boards, however, call for an increase of more than P20 a day.

"It's our [previous inflation] forecast, we used [a wage hike] assumption of P20, which made it 6.2 percent increase. If actual wage hike is bigger than that, then there will be additional inflation implications," Tetangco said.

The BSP is expected to release the revised figures on Thursday.

The latest report from the National Statistics Office said inflation eased at 4.1 percent in March, and averaged at 4.1 percent in the first quarter.

Despite the acceleration, the central bank said in March that inflation this year would likely settle at "close to 5 percent," while that for next year would average at 3.4 percent.

Both forecasts are within the government's official target of between 3 and 5 percent.

"The latest developments, however, may prompt the BSP to revise its forecasts, Tetangco said.

He declined to say whether the new inflation forecast for 2011 will be beyond the 5-percent targeted ceiling, but noted that inflation is even accelerating next year.

"For 2012, inflation is still seen to be closer to the lower end of the target [of 3 to 5 percent]. It will still be below the midpoint [4 percent] of the target range," he said.

Monetary officials said the wage hike, if not accompanied by a commensurate increase in productivity of workers, may accelerate inflation, or the rate of increase in the prices of basic commodities.

This is because an increase in demand that is not matched by an increase in supply would cause prices to rise.

Global oil prices are rising partly because of the political tensions in the Middle East and North Africa (Mena), which are oil-producing countries.

Rising domestic demand, resulting from a growing economy, is also blamed for creating inflationary pressures.

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INVITATION TO BID

Development Bank of the Philippines

The Development Bank of the Philippines is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the:

Project	Quantity	Approved Budget for the Contract/ Source of Fund: DBP Fund	Cost of Bid Documents
Hiring of Contractor for the Improvement/ Landscaping Works at the DBP Training Complex, Baguio City	1 Lot	P3,195,838.82	P1,000.00

***Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening**

Project Completion: Sixty (60) calendar days upon receipt of the Notice to Proceed

Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Pre-Bidding Conference	May 12, 2011 (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m.	5th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of May 26, 2011 (Thursday)	BAC Secretariat, 5th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents, Technical and Financial Proposals	May 26, 2011 (Thursday) at 9:30 a.m.	5th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the revised IRR of R.A. 9184 and is restricted to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. Only Bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall undergo Second qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested parties may download these forms at www.dbp.ph and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. Prospective bidders may secure the bid documents and Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 (cost of bid documents).

The prospective bidders are advised to check the Bank's website and the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) for bid bulletin and announcements regarding the project.

The Development Bank of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8120702/8189611 loc. 2610/2606.

Bids and Awards Committee

PREQUALIFICATION FOR GENERAL CONTRACTOR SELECTION BASED ON TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS "SOURCED ASSURE"

1. Project Location: Located with the 17 hectare reserve in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga, Philippines.
2. Project Name: Medical City Clark
3. Project Description: Approval & Construction for Hospital & Professional Offices in complete compliance of the Architectural Design and International & Local Building Standards.
4. Building Description: Approximately 40000 square meters, 6 floors, combination of concrete & glass structure.
   a. Construction shall be performed in Phases (first stage) is to be Phase One.
   b. Every phase of the construction process to be the General Contractor for the Medical City Hospital buildings will be constructed starting 2nd quarter of 2012.

1. Project Owner for "Shell" and Interior Contractor for the shell engineering, site construction of the Hospital Complex, and erection of significant structure to package out to the contractor for bidding process.
2. Interested Contractors shall submit their latest 3 complete copies of the relevant information, the place of the bidding process will be announced as the "Source Assure".
   2.1. Submission of technical information shall be accepted only if and when they are complete with:
   2.2. All Technical information requested below must be included in package references or the same listed. All technical statements shall be verified.
3. Required Technical Information:
   3.1. Company Profile
   3.2. Current BIR Registration (BIR Certificate)
   3.3. Other Government or Professional Certificate or its validity for submission to or from "Shell" Building & Engineering Contractor
   3.4. Duly Filled and Signed Contractor shall be attached
   3.5. List the current Projects with a commercial building project title and non-commercial building to:
      3.5.1. Owners Name & Contact Person name & telephone numbers
      3.5.2. Total Contract Value Amount per project
      3.5.3. Total Square Meters
      3.5.4. Contractual Completion Date
      3.5.5. Actual completed or completion date if on going project
   3.6. List of Projects currently building or have built in the past three (3) years:
      3.6.1. Owners Name & Contact Person name & telephone number
      3.6.2. Type of Contract: Fixed Lump Sum or Unit Price
         3.6.2.1. Total Number of Units
         3.6.2.2. Total Square Meters
         3.6.2.3. Original Completion Schedule
         3.6.2.4. Actual Completion Date
         3.6.2.5. Total Number of Change Order requested
         3.6.2.6. Total Number of approved change orders
         3.6.2.7. Contract Total Value
   3.7. Provide a Corporate Organizational Chart
   3.8. Provide typical Project Organizational Chart of firm you would staff to project
   3.9. Engineering Capability
      3.9.1. Total Number of Engineers employed full time
         3.9.1.1. Mechanical Engineers
         3.9.1.2. Electrical Engineers
         3.9.1.3. Civil Engineers
         3.9.1.4. Structural Engineers
         3.9.1.5. Process Engineers
         3.9.1.6. Safety / Environmental
         3.9.1.7. Quality Assurance / Quality Control
         3.9.1.8. Please state how many of said engineering discipline is a Registered Professional Engineer
         3.9.1.9. What is your work engineering load as for 2011
         3.9.1.10. Approximately what time would an interfacing work and what do you expect to complete the work?
      3.9.2. Subcontracts with a Professional Provider for Time worked or processed. Independent professional work, if so list or state
      3.9.3. Total number of trades and / or supervisory licenses and trades
   3.10. Construction Equipment
      3.10.1. Provide list of all construction equipment to include cranes, hoists, and equipment, materials equipment etc.
   3.11. Provide record for your owned vehicle Brands and Names
      3.11.1. List how many and make of vehicles
   3.12. Safety Record
      3.12.1. Please provide a copy of Crane Safety Manual
      3.12.2. Please provide a copy of Crane Safety Inspection Checklist
      3.12.3. Total Number of Work Days Accident
      3.12.4. Total Number of Work Day Accident
   3.13. Quality Assurance / Quality Control
      3.13.1. Please provide a copy of your Quality Manual Statement
      3.13.2. Please provide a copy of your QA/QC manual
4. Interested Bidder may obtain further information from Medical City Government and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Mon-Fri 8-5pm.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on May 2-26, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P10,000.00.
   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Medical City Government will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 6, 2011, 2:00pm at the Medical City Clark, 3rd Floor, Mimosa City Hall which shall be open to all interested bidders.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 16, 2011, 2:00pm (MAY 09Mon, 3rd Floor, Mimosa City Hall). All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on May 16, 2011, 2:00pm at (MAY 09Mon, 3rd Floor, Mimosa City Hall). Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Medical City Government reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

Atty. ERICK ARTELLO A. ABRIGOO
BAC Chairman
Address: BAC and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, Mimosa City Hall
(045) 45-74-000 local 270, 272

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Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF MAYOR
Bids and Awards Committee
City Hall, Roxas City 5800, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID NO. 023-11 FOR

Purchase of Various Office Supplies

1. The Roxas City Government through the Appropriation Ordinance intends to apply the sum of P4,240,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for Purchase of Various Office Supplies. Bid(s) received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Roxas City Government now invites bids for Purchase of Various Office Supplies. Delivery of the Goods is required within 30 days after receipt of NTP. Bidders should have completed, within 1 year from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.
   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from Roxas City Government and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during Mon-Fri 8-5pm.
   A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on May 2-26, 2011 from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P10,000.00.
   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
5. The Roxas City Government will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 6, 2011, 2:00pm at the Medical City Clark, 3rd Floor, Mimosa City Hall which shall be open to all interested bidders.
6. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 16, 2011, 2:00pm (MAY 09Mon, 3rd Floor, Roxas City Hall. All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
   Bid opening shall be on May 16, 2011, 2:00pm at (MAY 09Mon, 3rd Floor, Roxas City Hall. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
7. The Roxas City Government reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
8. For further information, please refer to:

Engr. ERICK ARTELLO A. ABRIGOO
BAC Chairman
Address: BAC and Awards Committee
2nd Floor, Mimosa City Hall
(045) 45-74-000 local 270, 272

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, CAMP BGEN
Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao

Purchase of One (1) unit 4000 KW CUMMINS MODEL QSK19-G3 DIESEL GENERATOR SET
(SKD-FUND-CY 2011)

1. The Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), now has the sum of Twenty Million Pesos (P20,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Purchase of One (1) unit 4000 KW CUMMINS MODEL QSK19-G3 DIESEL GENERATOR SET. Bid(s) received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), now invites bids for the Purchase of One (1) unit 4000 KW CUMMINS MODEL QSK19-G3 DIESEL GENERATOR SET. Delivery of the Goods is required within 30 days after receipt of NTP. Bidders should have completed, within 1 year from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.
   Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from The Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of P5,000.00.
   It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that Bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.
6. The Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), now will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on May 6, 2011, 2:00pm at the Bidding Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Regional Governor's Office, Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao which shall be open to all interested bidders.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 16, 2011, 2:00pm (MAY 09Mon, 2nd Floor, Regional Governor's Office, Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). All Bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
8. Bid opening shall be on May 16, 2011, 2:00pm at (MAY 09Mon, 2nd Floor, Regional Governor's Office, Cotabato City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao). Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The Office of the Regional Governor, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

ATTY. ALEXANDER A. ADIONG
Chairman, Regional Governor's Committee on Awards

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Philippine Economic Zone Authority

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard cor. Vito Cruz St.
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, **JJ SIPCOM MINING & METALS PHILIPPINES, INC. (Formerly, Nikko Metals Philippines, Inc.)** with plant site at the Laguna Technopark, Inc., Special Economic Zone I, 11-SE Cross Road with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to the manufacture of Copper Sulfate (UPHOSAN), which if approved will enable the company to avail power incentive Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position paper/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA, 5th floor, BIR Annex Building, Roxas Boulevard cor. Vito Cruz St., Pasay City, Philippines, Telefax No. 551-0000 local 2202.

(Sgd.) JULIA B. DELUNA
Director-General

Republic of the Philippines
DAVAO ORIENTAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
(DORECO)
Mati, Davao Oriental

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

For Davao Oriental Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DORECO) through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites applications/invitation to apply for eligibility and to bid(s) eligible to bid for the supply of Espargo CSP/E transformer.

Items of Project Supply of 5 MVA transformer of Espargo Substation located at Brgy. Lantangan, Espargo, Davao Oriental

The schedule of activities is as follows:

1. Bid Date — May 10, 2011
   Assembly Time: 8:30 a.m.
   Assembly Area: DORECO Main Office, Mati City
2. Pre-Bid Conference — May 10, 2011, DORECO Espargo Sub-office
3. Submission of Bids — To be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference
4. Opening of Bids — To be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference

Complete details of the undertaking indicated in the bid documents which will be available for inspection during the BAC Secretariat, DORECO Main Office, Mati City, Davao Oriental upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of Ph 200.00. In order to secure the documents, Bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

DORECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids, and to waive any defect or informality in any bid submitted that it may deem to be in the best interest of the Cooperative.

DORECO reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat, DORECO Building, Mati City, Davao Oriental, Telefax No. (087) 388-0112.

(Sgd.) ENGR. MOISES T. LABRA, PEE
Chairman, BAC - DORECO

(PNA-May 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A
(CALABARZON)
24 Ambrosio Bldg. 3, Brgy. Poblac, Calamba City
Contact Nos.: (049) 545-0242

May 04, 2011

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT (AEP)

Notice is hereby given that the following employers/contractors have filed with the Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permit:

Name and Address of Company Employer	Name and Citizenship of Foreign Applicant	Position and Brief Description of Functions
SAFT CHEMICALS (PHILIPPINES), INC. Unit 1202, 12th Avenue Corporate Center	Mr. Hoang Anh Dung Vietnam	Engineer
SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES MANUFACTURING CORP. Lot 2, Brgy. Batino, Calamba City	Mr. Hoang Anh Pham Vietnam	Senior Manager
SECAP INC. PHILS., INC. Km. 54, Crossing, Bayanan	Ms. Grace Sabal Philippines	Cook / Functioning Director
ASSEMBLY INTERNATIONAL CO., INC. CPT-1, Brgy. Tulo, Calamba City	Mr. Yuji Tsukiyama Japanese	Consultant/Engineer

If you have any information concerning the above-mentioned applications, please write to the Regional Director.

ATTY. WILFREDO E. MARTINEZ, JR., CESO III
Regional Director

In case of this (or) other documents, and management assistance and services, you may contact Public Employment Service Office (PESO) at Reg. IV-A at www.peso.ph

(PNA-May 4, 2011)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Regional Field Unit IV
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO REBID FOR BROKERAGE SERVICE

1. The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit IV (DA-RFU IV), through the Regional Bids and Awards Committee (RBAC) intends to rebid the contract of Yard Hostler for Imported Rice (PAL-2010-0001-RB) using the open bid modality for the Contract ceiling of Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) of Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) inclusive of the VAT, Fuel for petroleum products, taxes and insurance.
2. The bid fees for the bid documents shall be in the following amount:
   Brokerage, Loading, Unloading and Trucking Services including Stacking of Inbound Shipments for 17,000mt containers under Port Works Unit of Area 7(17 & 18)a Metropolitan Manila Area
   Delivery of the bid documents to the respective Area Port Works Unit of Area 7 (17 & 18)a Metropolitan Manila Area, particularly Commodity Distribution Division
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".
   Bidding is restricted to Philippine corporations, cooperatives or associations duly established or registered among Filipino citizens, with capacity to supply/perform the contract, or to those organizations considered as such under the laws of the Philippines, and which possess at least the minimum requirements set forth hereunder:
   a. Must have been in the business of Brokerage Services including Trucking Services for at least three (3) years prior to the date of bid opening;
   b. Must have a minimum capital requirement of Two Million Pesos (Php 2,000,000.00) inclusive of the VAT, Fuel for petroleum products, taxes and insurance.
4. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before May 20, 2011, 10:00 a.m. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in ITB Clause 18.
5. Bid opening shall be on May 20, 2011, 10:00 a.m. at the Bids and Awards Committee Conference Room, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit IV, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend. Late bids shall not be accepted.
6. For further information, please refer to:

   Dr. Jorge C. Mendoza
   BAC Chairperson
   DA-RFU IV, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City
   Tel. No. (632) 929-8071
   Fax No. (632) 929-8071
   www.da.gov.ph
   bacrfu4@yahoo.com

Approved:

(Sgd.) ATTY. EDGAR B. ABARIDO
RBAC Chairperson

(PNA-March 2011)

INVITATION TO BID

The Multisectoral Village Homeowners' Association, Inc. (MVHAI) is inviting all qualified bidders to pre-qualify and bid for **the pregravel rehabilitation/re-piping of the Village's water distribution system.** The detailed specifications of the project may be obtained at the MVHAI's office, located at the Clubhouse vs. Rosamaria compound, Jubilo Streets, multisectoral village, Parañaque City during business hours. Pre-bid conference will be on 09 May 2011 at 4:00 o'clock p.m. while the deadline for submission of bids is on 16 May 2011 at 4:00 p.m.

(PNA-May 4, 2011)

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Construction of School Buildings to Area Experiencing Acute Classroom Shortage (SY 2011-2012)

1. The Department of Education, through the Local School Board Special Account (LSBSA) intends to apply the sum being offered for the following contracts: Supply and Delivery of Textbooks and Teaching and Learning Materials for Elementary and Secondary Schools (SY 2011-2012) /

BUSINESS

Japan firms eye PH as possible alternative business location

By Abigail L. Ho

IN THE ill effects of the March 11 earthquake in northern Japan continue to persist across the nation, Japanese companies are flocking to the Philippines to evaluate the country as a possible alternative location for their operations.

A government source said Japanese tourists were not the only ones coming to the country in droves, but also investors who were on the lookout for alternative business sites.

"There have been inquiries by some Japanese companies to send some of their executives here for a visit to see. They want to take a look at what the country has to offer," the source said.

As an alternative business location, he said the Philippines was competing with Thailand and Vietnam, which have closely related culture with Japan, especially in terms of religion. The Philippines' edge, however, lies in strong English language capability and the long-time presence of many Japanese companies here.

In prepare for the possible influx of Japanese businesses here, government agencies such as the Department of Tourism, Finance, and Trade and Industry, as well as the Board of Investments and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority should work closely together to make themselves welcome, the source said.

In an earlier interview, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry vice chair Donald Dee quoted the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines as saying that there were about 200 small and medium Japanese companies affected by the earthquake and the resulting tsunami in northern Japan.

Of the 200 firms, he said 100 could be relocated, while the other 100 were totally washed out by the tsunami.

"But the companies that will be seeking alternative locations to resume their operations, we should do what would be necessary if these companies will consider relocating here. We should make them feel welcome," he said.

PEZA chair Lilia C. Oliveros Jr. said the country should also be ready for the entry of Japanese tourists, not only companies.

"If they perceive the Philippines as a safe place to go to, that will also produce investments for us in the long run," he said.

Power business to boost Semirara profit

By Ben T. Dalusaden

POWER WOULD be the "main engine" for Semirara Mining Corp.'s performance this year, company vice chair Isidro A. Consunji told reporters.

Consunji said the country's largest coal miner was projecting a profit of P6.8 billion to P7.6 billion this year from its power generation and coal mining operations. It realized this would translate to a 20 to 40 percent increase from 2010 level.

Mining operations are already "predictable and manageable," he said. Semirara's coal output was placed at 7 million tons, higher than its coal needs for the existing facility.

Semirara is expected to complete the rehabilitation of the Calaca coal-fired power plant in Batangas by the first quarter of next year.

The facility, which is being rehabilitated, has a capacity of 600 megawatts (MW).

The rehabilitation of units 1 and 2 of the existing Calaca power plant, Consunji said, was expected to cost $400 million to $450 million, much lower than the budgeted cost of $1.25 billion.

The company also wants to build another 600-MW power plant in Batangas, Consunji said the company was still studying its options with regard to the new 600-MW power plants to build beside the existing facility.

One potential partner is Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) but Consunji admitted that Semirara had also approached Aboitiz Power and San Miguel Corp.

Semirara could still choose to develop the new power plant on its own if it would not be able to find a suitable partner.

In the meantime, Semirara is also set to develop the Calaca special economic zone, which will cater to energy-intensive industries.

One possible investment being considered, Consunji said, was a four-star coal processing plant that could be a joint venture of Semirara, a select state-operated tech (Taiwan offshore,

Is investing in a condo unit a good idea?

MONEY MATTERS

Ramón F. Monzon, MD

QUESTION: Is a condo unit a good investment?—Alec Baptista Herrera via Facebook

Answer: It depends. If you are real estate hackers, they will tell you that investing in condominium units is the greatest thing since sliced bread. However, many investment experts warn against getting involved with estates from condominium developments until for a good reason.

The bigger question to ask is why are you considering purchasing a condominium unit? Is your purpose purely for capital gain or do you intend to live in that condominium unit? Have you done your research on investment options, or need to take a closer look at your investment objective, risk tolerance and time frame.

In this case, are you already retired, or is the three 3 immediately?

Assuming that you already have these questions answered, is investing in a condo a good idea then? The question is rather difficult to answer with almost absolutely.

Firstly, it is difficult to ascertain the actual rate of return for condominiums. It can be very good for some projects and very dismal for others. Location and developer play a big role in determining the growth rate for condos, but these are not the only factors. Many condominium units that did not appreciate as much as expected. However, there are some developments that experienced substantial growth in just a few years.

Condo units are real estates and are an asset class. Real estate remains one of the most preferred investments of Filipinos. It will always be a good part of your investment portfolio because it gives the investor peace of mind and it is a simplified asset preservation.

When properly selected and the purchase is done in a prudent manner as to rent, condo units like other real estate properties can provide asset appreciation while income in the same time—like having your cake and eating it, too. Quid pro quo: capital appreciation and rental income potential will largely depend on purchase price, quality of the property, location and attractiveness of the building.

Some factors regarding condo investing (or real estate investing) should always be considered especially in your assumptions like real estate taxes, association dues and capital gains taxes. All of these can be substantial and can largely dilute the appreciation of the property.

Further a condominium unit is not always easy to sell and be prepared to lower selling price if you are in a rush to liquidate your asset—or wait until there is a buyer which can take many months, even years.

Reading my answer probably made you more confused right? Well, there are no perfect answers in investing. As the saying goes, "investment means an uneven relative. Investing in a condo can be part of your asset class in your diversified portfolio.

As to a condo appreciating in value well, only time can tell, as there are many investments in your portfolio to the end, you will make many investments and the returns will vary—some might even cause you to lose money for buy. Bad's life.

Buying the condo units as well will make the scenario very different as you now have to contend with interest that can actually be your investment.

I hope my answer helped instead of confused you, always remember to be prudent and don't forget to diversify. No investment is perfect, unless have many options.

"But divide your investments among many places, for you do not know what risks might be ahead"—Ecclesiastes 11:2 (NLT).

Ramón F. Monzon, MD, is an advocate of Life & Personal Finance. He is a director of the Bagnatan-Monzon Financial Institute (BMI). To learn more about BFF programs, visit www.bmi.ph or e-mail us: bmi@yahoo.com

SPC to vie for Naga deal

By Jerry S. Bueza

PUBLICLY LISTED SPC Power Corp. plans to bid for the management of the government's contracted capacity in the 140-megawatt Naga power complex in Cebu, as it aims to further strengthen its involvement in power-related projects.

In a filing with the Philippine Stock Exchange, SPC Power said it intended to "devote special and aggressive focus to participate in the privatization" of the Naga facility.

"The power supply condition in the Visayas area is forecasted to remain critical in the future due to the booming economy and increasing power demand. The Naga power complex should continue to greatly alleviate and bridge the forecasted supply shortage in the coming years," SPC Power said.

The government, through Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp., plans to privatize the management of its contracted capacities in the Naga facility through the awarding of an independent power producer administrator (IPPA) contract to an interested party.

The transaction for Naga IPPA was originally set for bid "but has not been postponed in the light of the overtime being conducted by the Department of Energy of the various energy-related measures held and comments received during the recent informa-

INVITATION TO BID

MOTORING

Editor Joey B. Arroyo

Spark plugs

LAST WEEK we tackled the importance of oil and oil filters. This week we'll look at spark plugs and their importance to delivering a highly fuel-efficient, environmentally friendly engine that runs smoothly, helping generating the most power, torque and fuel economy.

SKID MARKS

Rolefe Santos

A spark plug's ability to deliver a powerful electrical discharge is hampered when the two metal tips, called the ends, fail (electrode and the lateral electrode tips) to oxidize, wear away or become covered in carbon build-up. As these phenomena happen, the electrical charge delivered by the spark plug weakens, which causes poor combustion as it is unable to combust the entire air fuel mixture. The result is poor power and loss of performance and fuel economy. There are categorized as HOT and COLD plugs. For NGK as an example, plugs 4-6 are considered HOT plugs, whereas plugs 7-11 are considered COLD plugs.

HOT spark plugs are able to retain more heat which helps clean itself from carbon build-up due to long idling periods and constant cold-start operations. But they are unable to shed off excess heat when subjected to extreme operating temperatures such as racing. COLD spark plugs are unable to retain as much heat, which makes them prone to fouling much more easily but are shed off excess heat when subjected to extreme operations such as motorsports.

For most mass market cars (your garden variety Toyota, Honda, Mitsubishi, Nissan etc) spark plugs are usually in the heat range of 5 as prescribed by NGK, or 16 by DENSO. Check the spark plug gaps as well, you can find some lighter hone-gapsters and fuel efficiency if the plugs are gapped properly. The gap is the distance between the tips of the central electrode and the lateral electrode.

Advanced Engine Management (AEM Electronics) Systems, based in Hawthorne, California, USA, a leading aftermarket parts manufacturer specializing in stand-alone plug and play engine control systems for high-performance and motorsports vehicles did an independent study to find out the ideal spark plug gap for a variety of cars and the results recommended a gap range of 0.044 inches / 1.1mm to 0.052 inches / 1.30mm for normally aspirated vehicles and a gap of 0.028 inches / 0.71mm to 0.032 inches / 0.6mm for supercharged vehicles.

There are pros and cons on finding the right gap is crucial. A gap too small increases the ignition coil cover time particularly in re-starting the engine, whereas a gap too wide can have to spark misfired out by the incoming air-fuel mixture. Hence, balance is key.

If you read your car's owner's manual, you'll see that the manufacturer recommends switching to a spark plug one heat range colder if you live and drive your car in a very hot and humid country to better resist detonation / pre-ignition. I have done this on my car, and

SPARK SELL

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BMW 5-Series: On the winds of change

By Butchi Santos

BMW's 5-Series sedan is the Munich fabricator's most valuable asset. The BMW 5 Series is their profit maker. But it is the BMW 5-Series which is BMW's most important sedan model because it represents the very core of what BMW's are: executive expressive with sporty sedan abilities. The 5-Series is that sedan by the entire sports sedan segment; as it is known to rake in as much as 26 percent of BMW's profits worldwide as you can just imagine how crucial the success is of the new F10/F11 5-Series.

My father used to own an E34 525i and it was indeed an amazing car, more focused, dynamic and light cousin to the E39 5-Series which was a bit too soft and floaty for my father's liking. I have driven the E39 BMW 5-Series which followed was a very good design evolution of the E34. Unlike my BMW sometimes lost the plot with the E60 5-Series, with its Bangle-butt but surprisingly it became the best selling car in 5-Series in BMW history. It is safe to say that the number 5 in certain cultures, philosophies and spiritual beliefs represents change, and a positive one at that. Let's hope the new 5 is a positive achievement for BMW, and local distributor Asian Carmakers Corporation, which, for the first time in 11 years of operation has finally turned a healthy profit, and with a new boss, Marissa Nieto, at the helm, here are a lot of positive changes!

The new F10/F11 5-Series has very big shoes indeed to fill. It still has the traditional BMW design cues such as very pronounced shoulder lines, the elegant looking sedan-to-class duo ring in the lamp. The E39 BMW 5-series that followed was a very good design evolution of the E34. Unlike my BMW sometimes lost the plot with the E60 5-Series, with its Bangle-butt but surprisingly it became the best selling car in 5-Series in BMW history. It is safe to say that the number 5 in certain cultures, philosophies and spiritual beliefs represents change, and a positive one at that. Let's hope the new 5 is a positive achievement for BMW, and local distributor Asian Carmakers Corporation, which, for the first time in 11 years of operation has finally turned a healthy profit, and with a new boss, Marissa Nieto, at the helm, here are a lot of positive changes!

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THE F10/F11 5-Series is a testament to BMW's design philosophy as executive expressive with sporty sedan abilities.

Will P-Noy sign the Road Safety Pledge?

BEING THE country's No. 1 motorist, President Benigno S. Aquino III probably will. The only question is when and where.

For the Philippine Global Road Safety Partnership (PGRSP), that question is of earth-shaking importance as the global launch of the United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety (2011-2020) is fast approaching. The multi-sectoral movement is of the PGRSP which is chaired by the Automobile Association Philippines (AAP), hopes and prays that P-Noy will sign the Road Safety Pledge to full view of news cameras on May 11 when the Decade is launched at 8 a.m. at the ADB complex in Pasig City.

Photos and news bytes of the President of the Republic of the Philippines signing a pledge that supports the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety and thus marking the Presidential Proclamation on Road Safety would demonstrate the importance of the Decade's goal, which is to cut projected road deaths worldwide by 50 percent over the next 10 years. That translates into saving five million lives globally over the next decade since 1.2 million people are killed in road crashes every year, with 90 percent of the fatalities recorded in developing countries like the Philippines.

KELLER

The almost daily news reports of fatal and crippling road crashes in the Philippines make the Decade of Action especially urgent for us. As a fillip, road accidents take more lives worldwide than malaria. The developing countries toward the UN General Assembly to approve a resolution in March 2010 declaring 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The resolution was proposed to the UN by the FIA (Federation Internationale de l'Automobile), which has 207 member motoring clubs from 131 countries and actively promotes the interests of motorists as well as issues such as road safety and the environment at the UN, the European Union and other international institutions. International partners include Robert Bosch, as the FIA Foundation's Make Roads Safe Ambassador, addressed the UN General Assembly to support the resolution.

Endorsed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, the landmark UN resolution was signed by the delegates of some 100 governments that will launch the Decade in their own countries on May 11. Each country will implement a national program to mobilize and share ideas for the scale of road deaths. The FIA Foundation ensures month-to-month action on all aspects of road safety, working towards safer roads and vehicles, increased use of seatbelts and helmets, educational campaigns to encourage safer behavior, better road safety management, and improved post-crash response.

In the Philippines, the PGRSP is finalizing the Philippine Road Safety Action Plan 2011-2020 and organizing the Decade's May 11 ceremonial launch that will be followed in by the nationwide display of church bells and the honking of car horns. The partners of the non-stock, non-profit PGRSP are Asian Carmakers Corporation, Philippine Shell Petroleum Corp., FORTUNE Smart Friends, and Ford Group Philippines. The PGRSP is the country partner of the FIA's action-based program of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies that brings together government, private sector and civil society organizations in 10 areas road safety problems in low- and middle-income countries.

ACTION PLAN

On May 11, after the Presidential Proclamation on Road Safety is read (hopefully by P-Noy himself), the Senate and House resolutions supporting the Decade will be read followed by the signing of the Road Safety Pledge and the distribution of copies of the National Road Safety Action Plan. Heads of all of the motoring family members of some road crash victims and then to all those present.

A unifying global symbol, the yellow Road Safety "flag," will highlight the Decade's launching ceremonies world-wide. The flag, which was conceptualized by the FIA Foundation and approved by the UN and the World Health Organization as a symbol of support for the Decade, challenges all to "Move. Relieve. Act" to make roads safer for all road users. The flag will be distributed to those who sign the Road Safety Pledge.

AAP is the only Philippine affiliate of the FIA, prepared the Road Safety Pledge that President Aquino has been invited to be the first to sign. On the form of a raised hand, the pledge reads:

I SUPPORT THE DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY 2011-2020

As a road user, I pledge:

Not to use my cell phone while driving;

Not to drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs;

To always use a seatbelt while driving;

To maintain my car in good, roadworthy condition;

Not to be goaded into road rage by aggressive drivers and motorcyclists;

Not to throw garbage out of my car.

To always observe and follow road laws, rules and regulations.

The global plan to make roads safer, supported by 100 governments in the United Nations, will benefit developing countries where the fast-growing number of road deaths and injuries impedes economic and social progress. The resulting question now is: Will this crisis be compelling enough to motivate the President to make sure, rather than mean for the 8 a.m. May 11 launch of the Decade of Action for Road Safety? We'll all know by next week.

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

AAP celebrates 80th year with Concours d'Elegance

THE AUTOMOBILE Association Philippines (AAP) is celebrating its 80th anniversary next month with a classic concours d'Elegance, a showcase of the most prized collector cars, at the Philippine Trade Training Center (PTTC) on Roxas Blvd. corner Roxas-Jr., Pasay City. The public is welcome and admission is free.

The May 8-9, 2011 Concours will display not only 27 vintage and classic cars, but also eight cars that represent the eight decades of AAP's history from 1931 to 2011: the Ford Model A (1930s), Buick Eight (1940s), Ford Fairlane (1950s), Volkswagen Beetle (1960s), Toyota Corona (1970s), Mitsubishi Lancer (1980s), Nissan Sentra (1990s) and Toyota Camry (1990s) and finally the Honda Civic (2000s). Aside from these, the category winners of the 2010-2011 Car of the Year Search led by the Car of the Year, Chevrolet Orlando, have been invited to exhibit their award-winning vehicles.

The Concours' hours are 1 - 6 p.m. on Sunday, May 8 and 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. on Monday, May 9. AAP members can register for the 80th general membership meeting at 1 p.m. May 7 at the PTTC, which is also the venue for the Philippine Motorsport Awards Night. At the conclusion of the motorsport awards dinner is by invitation only.

AAP was founded in April 1931 in Manila as the Philippine Motor Association by prominent Filipinos including Carlos S. Quirino, Jorge B. Vargas and Alfonso Sycip with some friends who were American Chamber of Commerce members. In 2001, the board of directors changed the name of the Automobile Association Philippines to be in sync with the AA nomenclature of motoring clubs affiliated with the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA), in other countries. AAP is the only FIA member in the Philippines.

Spark plugs

Pretty page B3-1

gapped properly, non-much better and makes detonation / pre-ignition better as my car, bought brand new a few years back, suffered from detonation / pre-ignition even when new, perhaps due to the heat and poor fuel quality as COVER gas stations. My car, a Toyota Vios came with the equivalent of an NGK 5 heat range. I switched to a 6 to improve performance. Check your owner's handbook if there are such recommendations, don't assume.

Check your spark plug every-time you have your vehicle serviced, and if it looks unusually worn, have it cleaned or better yet replace it. A new set of plugs will be well worth the added cost to be quickly as 2-3 full tanks of fuel.

Lastly, drive away from those super-duper, all-in-one 7 way spark plugs that promise to increase power, efficiency and what not. Whatever gains you might get in changing to these plugs is a result of changing to newer plugs, and nothing else. A new spark plug gapped properly and with the correct heat range for your engine will deliver all the performance and efficiency you'll ever need and find in a spark plug.

BRITAIN'S Queen Elizabeth II and Britain's Prince Philip ride back on Buckingham Palace in a horse-drawn carriage. (Reuters)

THE NEW royal couple rides from Buckingham Palace in Clarence House in an Aston Martin DB6 Volante. (Reuters)

KATE Middleton and her father Michael travel in a Rolls Royce.

A Royal Car (and Carriage) Show

By Alvin Ng

AS PHOTOS of the recent royal wedding of Kate and William have appeared on the papers and in the Internet, we both enjoyed a plethora of classic cars featuring a rare 1949 Aston Martin Volante DB6 Mk II which Prince William used to bring his new bride after the wedding. All the British marques showed up for the occasion, from the XJL Jaguar used by the Middletons en route to church, to the Range Rovers used by the security detail, the classic Aston Martin of Prince Charles used by Prince William and the coach-built Bentleys and Rolls Royce state cars used by the royal family. Understandably there weren't any Audi, Mercedes or BMW on site. Ironically, the Germans now own Bentley and Rolls Royce while the Land Rover and Jaguar brands are now owned by an Indian company. Hello was a home British mishap). All these plus the famous century-old 1902 State Landau carriage used by the royals made for the most wedding procession. This was the same carriage used by Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana on their wedding day in 1981.

The bride's ride to the wedding

As the first commoner to be married to a British royal in over 300 years, Kate Middleton arrived in true royal fell off on royal carriage to optimism. The coach-built 1976 Rolls Royce Phantom VI from the royal stable used to fetch her and her dad Michael was in pristine condition. The car sustained some damage last year by ancient pyromaniac who threw rocks and paint but was quickly restored in time for this occasion.

Other Royal Rides

The Queen and Prince Philip arrived in a maroon-hulk Bentley with a bullet-proof sunshroud bubble glassed-in modified by British coachbuilders. The Queen's transport was a coach-built Bentley that was presented in 1953 to 2003 on her Golden Jubilee. This car together with another Bentley used by Prince William and Harry were fully customized Bentley Arnage models with a 6.75-liter V-8 engine that had been stretched by about 40 inches longer. These Bentleys total 6.21 meters in length with a wheelbase of 3.84 meters, which is about 1.3 meters longer than a typical sedan. These were the first two Bentleys of the royals. All state cars are painted in royal claret livery and they do not have registration number plates. The royal state car collection includes two Bentleys, three Rolls-Royces and three Daimlers.

Father of the groom's line

The car used by Prince Charles, and wife Camilla was the oldest car in the fleet of state cars. The Queen's Rolls Royce Phantom IV was built in 1950. This was the first Rolls Royce for the royals and only a handful were built (16 in total). Before that, the royals used Daimler vehicles right after cars became in fashion.

A very green Royal Convertible

After leaving Buckingham Palace for the royal residence Clarence House, the royal couple drove off in a Sapphire blue convertible Aston Martin DB6 Mk II owned by his father Prince Charles. This rare 1965 classic runs on 85 percent (not ethanol (E85). Its 6-cylinder engine was engineered to run on sustainable fuel last June 2008 at the request of Prince Charles. This car was a gift given by the Queen to Prince Charles on his 21st birthday. This convertible is 1 of just 38 that were built with the high performance 4.0-liter, 325 hp straight six. The Prince insisted to have it converted to run on ethanol made from wine.

In the last five years, collectible Aston Martin prices have risen by an average of about 40 percent. The Prince's DB6 Mk II model gained even much higher from an average market price of about $300,000 to estimated market value is now about $800,000. Aside from its stunning good looks, it was probably largely influenced by the car enthusiast's penchant for the classic "James Bond" Aston Martin, the DB5 coupe version which was recently sold for a staggering value of $4.6 million at RM Auctions in London last October. The DB5 appeared in the 1964 James Bond movie "Goldfinger."

The Royal Carriages

After the wedding service at Westminster Abbey, the royal couple used the 1902 State Landau along the processional route to Buckingham Palace. The 1902 State Landau was specifically built for King Edward VII in 1902 and was originally intended to be used at his Coronation. Nowadays, it is the carriage usually used by The Queen to meet foreign heads of state when they arrive on state visits to Britain. According to the Royal motor carriage curator, Martin Gates, said it was the vehicle "everybody wants to see. It has been used over the years as the British carriage. This was the carriage that Diana and Sarah Ferguson used to go from Clarence House to their churches." Adorned with gold leaf and upholstered in crimson satin, is normally drawn by six horses but only four was used for royal wedding.

A total of five horse drawn carriages in the procession from Westminster abbey to Buckingham Palace. Aside from the wedding carriage, the second and third carriages were from London carrying the Best Man, Maid of Honor and Bridesmaids. The fourth carriage was a State Landau carrying The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh.

BLACK taxi cabs travel along a road in central London.

BRAZO DE MERCEDES

Momma's sweet ride is meant to be enjoyed slowly

Text and photos by Tessa B. Salazar

WHEN DO we have to associate luxury cars with speed, speed, and more speed? If Mercedes-Benz launched all of its cars on the basis of how fast they could go from point A to Boss, does buyers wouldn't have any choice, would they? But choice has always been the point of the axis, especially when it comes to big ticket items such as luxury cars. And that is precisely why the uber-elegantly proportioned Mercedes-Benz have designed and introduced in to the world a vehicle that would hold her to a particular niche: The B Class. Its intended owners: All the happy Mommies.

Now, to show a reason the smallest engine in the Benz stable (at 1.5 liters) has been marketed for them? I can only hazard a guess: Does your Mom tend to shout at you to make you follow what she wants you to do? To get things done, smart Mom doesn't need to scold. Her much physical power. Charm and coordination as everything in make a warm body move. Probably the same at time of the B Class.

I just had my second encounter with the B Class just last week. The B Class a 1.6D. Misery entry-level Benz in the Philippine market. Technically, though, the A Class is Benz's official entry level vehicle, but that isn't available here. My second helping of the B Class, though is no way related to my first status, has made me even more familiar with the simple charms of what Benz considers its entry-point sports sedan exhibit.

The first thing I noticed about the B Class was its door locks. When the locks activate, they cushed themselves as deep inside the door panel that is seems impossible to lift and unlock them manually (and I imagine myself trapped inside the car, in the middle of a collected track, and the train is speeding towards me). But a quick and firm tug on GATE lock gaps result in a calming answer: Mr. Lee, they tell me, those locks are really not intended to be pulled up, or pushed down, manually. You only need to pull the interior lever and the locks will disengage mechanically, meaning even if the power is out, you'll still be able to open your door and get out.

With that concern put at ease, I found myself comfortably easing into the driver's seat with its ample adjustments, especially for the side bolsters (I personally went to sit as high as I can to get a good view of the road before me, or else rolls over it). The dual-climate control also personalizes the inbox temp for the driver and front passenger (which is good for Mister, because, sometimes, on a particularly stressful day at home, Mister need to cool down more than the belligerent teenaged she or daughter beside her). Another thing the protective instincts of a mother are the three rear seats, all of which are equipped with three point seatbelts, with the Isofix child seat attachments with top-tether in the rear.

Mothers, ever the budget-conscious, would find the instrument cluster not helpful, even. The standard fit trip computer would show their average fuel consumption from start or from reset), the number of kilometers covered for the trip, and even real time fuel consumption displayed as a bar graph. For my fuel nut, the best fuel efficiency I got was at 16.66 km per liter on a 35-km highway run with an average speed of 60-kph. On Sunday night traffic, the B Class picked 7.7 km per liter with an average speed of 25-kph.

NEED TO KNOW, SO IT SHOWS. The cockpit's monitors, dials and instruments are all well-organized and will tell you everything you need to know as you drive.

Though the B Class looks deceptively simple (some observers even carelessly remark that on a certain angle, it looks like a big Honda Jazz. The nerve of those people!), it has been accorded with over 30 years of the-art standard equipment and features not found in other compacting/luxury cars in the field. For example, who don't need another warm body like your six-year-old home) to guide you through those tight parking spaces, as there is the optionally available Active Parking Assist. Once the car has detected a suitable parking space, you can engage the reverse gear and confirm that you want to park, then all you need to do is control the car's speed with the accelerator and the brake pedal. The system runs the steering wheel autonomically, and the car will parallel park.

Another mother-friendly tech assistant is the Hill Assist Assist, which makes it much easier (and less unnerving) to start off on a gradient and prevents vehicles from re-starting to roll unintentionally when you move your foot from brake pedal to accelerator. Way thoughtful.

Much of the other tech features are directed towards enhancing active safety. The electronic stability program can apply the appropriate braking force to one or more wheels and adjust the engine output if necessary. There's also the more control or steering assistance system, and the brake assist (which can recognize emergency braking by the speed with which you press the brake pedal and increases the braking force, thereby reducing the stopping distance). Also standard are the pressure warning system and anti-traction skid control, or ASR.

Owners of the B Class can expect a front span of 80.8 cm (roadtrip length) and capacity of 344 liters (its indulge the comparisons to the Jazz, the trunk space of the Jazz is 204 liters).

The adaptive brake lights is another interesting tech add-on. At speeds in excess of 50kph, the brake lights flash automatic to alert to motorists from behind. If the vehicle is braked to a standstill from at least 50kph, the hazard warning lights are activated automatically as an additional safety feature.

Blue is the new Green

The B Class can also mean "Blue," which is Benz's preferred color for environmental responsibility (ve-nibody's been into Green anyway, so why jump into that band-wagon when you can make your own, as suggest). The B Class, such as this Hydrogen fuel cell variant which I drove, was developed by engineers to make compact car with as much interior space as possible, designed to be as practically elegant as possible, and to have the smallest carbon footprint possible. That latter objective has led Benz to its Blue Efficiency breakthrough.

With BlueEfficiency, the B Class, like the rest of the 81 or so Benz models presently in production around the world, has been developed to minimize energy consumption. The seemingly left-details, such as tires developed for low rolling resistance, intelligent alternator management and an energy efficient steering system, when put together, help to significantly reduce fuel consumption by up to 12 percent and 1,124 emissions by a substantial margin. I have also been told that the B Class models have recyclable materials such as zoomer fibers in the seats. All B Class models have received the much German technical inspection authority's environment certificate, a first-star seal.

All of these features add-on to the total caliber of this compact sports tourer, however, as does the big price to match. At a total P2.186 million. There one must factor in the cost of owning or maintaining this model, which could run up to P320,000 every 10,000 km (wear and tear not yet included). But then, you're a mother who owns a Benz today. Some more another bill every now and then matter?

Then, if you're the last-blessed son, or daughter, who thinks he or she can run circles with the B Class, go back to your room. Though the B Class rides (it is equipped with the seven-speed "manual-sport" gear selection lever managed by the Autotronic continuously variable automatic transmission), acceleration is really not its strongest suit.

What it is is a sporty, protective shell that will take you where you want to go in complete security and confidence. Unless you are a baby in your mother's arms. I know the ride of this article.

Would you want to bring your Mom to the GMS showroom this Mother's Day and have her get a better look at the car that was made for her? Visit the Edsa or the Port offices, or log on to www.mercedes.ph.

DOUBLE PURPOSE. Practical and elegant at the same time, the B 160 is an all-around urban runabout that can go from Point A to Boss in style.

A NEAT FIT. B maximizes bike and a road bike, and three adults all nice and comfy inside. There's a 344 liters of space and 60.8 cm of loading height can do for you.

All Winning Deals for Subaru Legacy and Forester

MOTOR IMAGE Pilipinas, the exclusive distributor of Subaru in the Philippines, will offer special rates and discounts through its Subaru All Winning Deals (AWD). Low down payment schemes, zero interest plans and all in packages are available for the Forester and Legacy in offer to clients the opportunity to bring home a Subaru with the best deals possible. The Subaru AWD is being offered until May 31, 2011.

For a limited period, clients will have the chance to own a Subaru with special offers via the Forester and Legacy For 50 percent down payment and up to 12 months at percent interest, one can bring home the Forester or Legacy. Low interest and all-in packages will also be available, which include free one-year comprehensive insurance, three-year LTO registration, chattel mortgage, and 3M car.

Despite the global economic woes in Japan, inventory for units and spare parts remain abundant for Subaru owners.

The Subaru Forester and Legacy have both continued to grow popular amongst car buyers today. The Forester compact SUV provides the perfect balance of practicality and versatility especially for Philippine road conditions, while the Legacy 2.5 GT executive sport sedan continues to captivate the market having class-leading features and innovations. As with any other Subarus, the Forester and Legacy combine refinement and sensibility in one compact package.

BMW X-Po weekend slated May 6-7

BMW CARMAKERS Corporation (BCC), the exclusive distributor of BMW vehicles, celebrates its brand leadership with a two-day celebration with BMW X-po—a fun-filled weekend on May 6-7, 9 am to 6 pm at the BMW Pavilion in Fort Bonifacio, right behind the BBC Tent.

BCC brings joy beyond the driving experience by offering exclusive financing rates for brand new and pre-loved BMW's in partnership with BMW and Citibank.

"BMW buyers can expect a mix of models on hand for that they can avail through special preferential rates. Suffice to say, this is the best time to buy with the best deals available. There's definitely joy when you choose a BMW," said Alan Muñoz, Sales Director of Amalgamated Motors Corporation.

Guests can also look forward to seeing the BMW 320d Gran Turismo, BMW 3 Series Performance, and Motorrad bikes on display.

The BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo combines elegance, space, comfort and versatility in truly unique style. The BMW 5 Series Gran Turismo is quite responsibled worldwide in the upper middle segment, combining the characteristic features of a prestige saloon, a modern, highly versatile Sports Activity Vehicle, and a classic Gran Turismo in brand new, unprecedented style.

The BMW Performance components transfer racing expertise to the road and allow the drivers to express his enthusiasm for outstanding technological performance in individual style. The result: options in the product areas of power, chassis, aerodynamics and cockpit, specially developed for the new BMW 3 Series, form part of the BMW Original Accessories range.

Editor: Thelma Sarao San Juan

LIFESTYLE Home&Entertaining

Nelson Mandela patronizes Filipino furniture designer's works

Spain's Espacio Nudage has chosen the 'wonder boy' Cebuano as one of 10 emerging designers in the world.

By Kaye G. Leyte
Cebu Bureau

CEBU FURNITURE designer Vito Selma has been named a wonder boy. Perhaps the 26-year-old designer's early exposure to design through his family's two-decade-old furniture export company helped.

But at an age when most 20-somethings live in only one of two states... living drunk or hung-over—or are desperately trying to figure out what it is they can possibly do with their lives, Selma is already a multi-awarded designer. His impressive client list includes Nelson Mandela and Sarah Jessica Parker, and his pieces are already being sold in 29 different countries.

Selma was named one of 65 Asians that Will Change the World in the Philippines Yearbook 2009 and one of 24 in Forever magazine's Generation "Y" List of 2008. His most recent recognition includes the Elegant Awards for both Material Innovation and Contemporary Furniture Design in last year's Cebu RED Furniture show.

He recently entered a much-talked-about competition to choose the emerging designers, the Espacio Nudage, and is one of 10 young designers chosen from around the world, and one of the elder 10 chosen, to exhibit their work in September. "I am one of the three Asians chosen, and I am very proud that my work is 100 percent Philippine-

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TUTTO Domani offers a lifestyle that's chic and on the go.

Living and dining spaces
integrated in seamless, stylish whole

By Margo C. Enriquez
Contributor

ONE RECENT AUGUST Pasco was just starting his career when he was living in a cramped studio. The level took up most of the space, so he realized up taking his studio's level.

Today, furniture makers are providing solutions for compact living. Multifunction furniture enables inhabitants to run, downsizes and studios to enjoy a versatile and clutter-free space.

The Yuppengos family is renovating their Domani design and furniture store into a lifestyle concept at the New World hotel arcade. Domani has evolved into two stores: Pasco and Tutto Domani that respond to the weekend consumers.

Domani was established by José Ma. Yuppengos after studying at the Domus Academy in Milan, Italy. The store presented in sleek and technologically advanced furniture pieces and accessories from Italy and forward-looking lighting fixtures by such designers as Ingo Maurer. It has been the exclusive distributor of Driade, one of the first Italian brands to launch avant-garde designers.

"I wanted modern good furniture in the market," said Yuppengos. "Italian furniture has a historical footage and they've done a lot of research. They just don't pop up designs."

Multitasking

However, the rise of big furniture stores carrying brand names brought stiff competition. Yuppengos's brother Anthony and his wife Gina, said they have always wanted to operate dining in regular furniture.

"We've been in the business for 15 years and it was time to get out of our comfort zone," said Anthony. "We had to think of something different from what the rest is offering."

They tapped friends Derrick and Sherwin Tan, with their expertise in furniture spaces, and Pasco to help bring a new versatility to the lifestyle arena.

Z-Point is derived from the Z coordinates in an architectural or computer rendering. The Z refers to the vertical height. Z-Point offers seamless furniture by the popular Italian brand Clei.

For '10 years now, the Yuppengos have been selling the sofa beds. With the popularity of 20 sq m to 30 sq m condo units, they saw the demand for furniture spaces that take up less space and easily change into another function.

A storage cabinet could open to a bed; wall beds could function as dining tables; a small unit display shelf could swivel into pull-down bed with pull-out side tables. An office desk could be lifted and a hidden drawer exposes another bed and storage area. With a special system, the desk turns into a bunk bed with a ladder and safety railing.

"Fifteen years ago, we were not going vertical," said Yuppengos. "Now there's a lean towards vertical living. This isn't just a wall that creates down into a bed. It's a complete system which gives more space because it can do many tasks. If you have a 20 sq m area, you are able to function as though you have a 40 sq m area."

MORE chocolate cake just appeals to life's delectable joys.

TUTTO and Display behind the glass counter displaying contemporary cakes and pies in the carved in fabulous purchase.

"Traditional pieces...bed, sofa and dining set take up 30 percent of the area," Derrick said. "These items combine compact and round form up the space. While Clei, these are set furniture items, and the environmentally in surprise and the structure of the spaces in more solid."

The customers can specify the finish...laminate, wood veneer or painted.

Ethereal calm

The store comes alive with the fresh aroma of coffee, aromas made by Tutto Domani, and the seductive display of the cakes.

Tutto Domani literally means "all for tomorrow" in Italian.

With his training in Elio Ideaffer in Paris and Manifesto Oriental Mueble, Anthony Yuppengos developed the food concept in partnership with New World Hotel.

Although it is primarily a cafe home-town, offering dining that is more in the

New World GM David [illegible] stirred by the sweet ideas [illegible] to argue last high in qual

BRAWN are wire-loving Clei coffee table is his take on sitting art.

Nelson Mandela patronizes Filipino fu

From page C1

made," Delosa said.

Substance, duality

Each is their simplicity, Delosa's pieces are defined by clean and straightforward patterns. He weaves wood...his choice materials...to form complex textures, often pushing the limits of what it is capable of and what is expected of it without compromising its functionality.

He describes his approach to his craft not as a realist model, large piece of material to mold his vision but rather as an artist expounding in his inner or imagination, drawing out its essence and weaving it to make its best pose for all the world to see. In the end, each piece has the substance to support the style.

One of his award winning pieces is the Ceo coffee table. A three dimensional play of lines to create an illusion of curves, the Ceo is Delosa's take on sitting art, except he uses wood instead of wire or thread. Using woven wooden legs and handles from their factory, he ran through a dozen machine to see the threads, which he then arranged to mimic lines in perpetual movement. Brilliant yet inside for a kid who hated math, but managed it anyway.

He was an finished year of Interior Architecture at The Academy of Art University in San Francisco where he quite realized that furniture design was just one of the courses and not the primary focus of the undergraduate degree. He is taking up his Master's in Industrial Design in his dream school, the Istituto Politecnico di Design, in Milan, eventually skipping an undergrad degree.

Each has been life for Delosa. The natural inspire to run, create children and give them a sense of purpose in life. "whatever you do, do it well". Im-

CAUSE wood chair

EACH of his pieces has substance to support the style.

BRAWN is known for his simplicity of materials in furniture design.

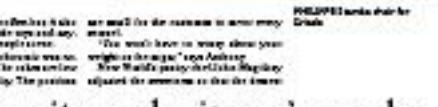
BRAWN approach in his craft as an artist is expounding in its essence or inspirations; right, Delosa's pieces are fabric on Narrabin.

WOOD is Delosa's choice material.

PHILIPPE Bamboo chair is an unassuming small size statement piece

PHILIPPE bamboo chair for Driade

Domani reinvents itself with lifestyle display and coffee bar in New World Hotel



are small for the restroom is never crowded. "This would have to occupy about your weight to be the magic" says Andrew.

New World's pastry chef John Magsilay adjusted the proportions to that the dimensions

is not cloying and quite consuming. Its layers of the flourless chocolate cake made from Grenna couverture and the moist chocolate cake, made with sponge cake layered with chocolate mousse, sandwiched with chocolate crumbles and toasted cashews.

The chocolate buttercream is a lethal combination of chocolate truffle and caramel cream on top. The lemon Bavarois the hazelnut chocolate cake covered with hazelnut butter cream and hazelnut bits, nuts and the fresh cream brownie, with its spiky figures more accustomed by the crumbs of the chocolate chips and brownie icing.

The people who don't like chocolate cakes, the sponge vanilla mango cake is a light yellow dish. The cocoa cake, filled with mango and mango is wrapped in an almond custard cream frosting and covered with almond shavings.

"Our cakes are grandeur all the way" Magsilay said. "When you say the cakes chocolate cakes, it's just sponge and cocoa. Where you want to the middle layer cream would because of the quality of the cocoa with the kinds a sheer delight. We don't compromise on anything at all."

The sandwiches are served on wooden boards accompanied with sidings in thick glass bowls. Anthony said the fillings offer various subtle flavors that home in on the tongue. "Your Domani's signature is the spicy French ramp made with an authentic cream formula."

rniture designer's works

plinth boy and an animal activity.

In Orlando's case, however, he seems to have been from the golden child, naturally good at everything, including the things he doesn't enjoy doing. He has the wisdom and eye for beauty and together with the hands to create it. He is an overachiever in the best... or worst... sense of the word, because he can never relax or enjoy.

Orlando can also draw plans, cook, design living spaces and take photos. And he can do these things exceptionally well. In fact, he admits that photojournalism is his number one love, while design is just something his parents wanted him to pursue.

Hurdles

Inspired by National Geographic magazine as well as the poignant work of the British humanitarian photojournalist Don Mccullin, Orlando had his first solo photography exhibit featuring a solo in the Manila shores in Orlando's Hill Gallery last year. The exhibit entitled Hurdles for a Decade Africa explored the challenges that have hardened people in Africa.

Africa holds a dear place in Orlando's heart. He has lived in Johannesburg, where he completed three internships with celebrated interior designers George de Haas, whose symbiotic and design of living spaces have helped shape his own aesthetic taste and execution.

It was during his internship with Haas that Mandela was drawn to Orlando's work and brought down to his home.

After, during these internships Nan decided to take a side trip to where would become one of his very moral destinations and the subject of his photo exhibit, Namibia.

"There is nothing like it anywhere else in the world," he declared. "Everything is so... rugged and... people's skin, the desert, the sky. The whole sky is a little more or less... red, but what's really beautiful is when you come over a dry landing at the coastal as a desert, its just so wild."

He confesses the natural beauty and mysticism of Africa with the simplicity and practicality of Scandinavian and Japanese design in his own words, and is largely inspired by his travels. To date, Orlando's living room is a bare from one of Orlando's travels. "For all who wanders are lost," which allows him to purchase pieces his travels from, but also to live, and keep pieces of all things that are from which he remains.

For more information on Nan Zaldivar, visit his website at www.nanzaldivar.com

BELOW Nan set up of using wood, flax in wire string.

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Offer period is from April 11 to May 12, 2011.

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Fashion show with a heart on Mother's Day

Charity show aims to raise funds for pediatric heart patients

By Margot C. Bretaña

IT TOOK a male heart patient to save a Mother's Day celebration.

Four years ago, businessman Manuel Rosario Padilla, then 45, nearly died when a virus plagued his heart after he came from a business trip in Manila.

"I was getting heart attacks every day. I could not breathe," he recalled. Instead of a heart transplant, Dr. Jorge Garcia, heart surgeon and founding chair of Asian Hospital and Medical Center, performed a heart reconstruction.

"My heart was taken out. It's healthy," said Padilla. The next day, a symposium was conducted discussing his unique case.

Confined in the intensive care unit for several months, Padilla felt that he still had a mission to accomplish. He vowed that if he recuperated, he would help every indigent child who needed heart surgery.

Today, his heart is aided by an implantable cardioverter defibrillator, which is embedded on the chest to monitor and correct a very fast heartbeats. To keep it, he walks 15 kilometers every day.

As vice president of Bayan Bata's administrative board, Padilla looked into the Bayan Bata medical center and saw a number were in need of heart surgery.

He sought to help blue babies or infants with heart defects.

"Their fingernails and lips are black and their tongues are swollen because of lack of oxygen," he said. When the operation, the blue babies turn pink."

Bantay Bata has already facilitated 60 cases who were operated at the Philippine Heart Center. Padilla said there's a backlog of 130 in the pediatric heart patient list. For this, members of the advisory board are organizing one of their biggest charity events on May 8.

Mothers for Others is a luncheon champagne brunch and children's fashion show at the Makati Shangri-La Ballroom.

HAMBY Padilla, Audrey Zukin, Nanette Po, Kaye Tioga, Carla Ramsay and Raja Lauret

Anela Dani Padilla, stalwarts of Mothers for Others include the Bantay Bata administrative board: Audrey Zukin, Carla Ramsay, Irene Zubiaga Lagdameo, Jackie Gindlhofer-Hess, Kaye Tioga, Lisa Chan, Nanette Medved-Po and Raja Lauret.

As explained the initial mandate of the board was Bantay Bata 163 Children's Village, a shelter for rescued children in Bulacan: "We realized that the board was interested in other aspects."

The board supported Padilla's intensive Mothers for Others field an art auction at the Manila Polo Club. Jaie Chanmanan, it never ceased enrolling to raise money.

The charity fashion show on Mother's Day seeks to raise funds and eat down the building.

Makati Shangri-La general manager Rene Glanzer has offered to move the Pangalay-Medley televised light at Century's and give the ballroom for the use of the fashion show at modest cost.

Aside from Lauret, designers who would make mini collections for the show are Inno Sotto, Rhett Eala, Dennis Lustico, Jun Escobio, Paul Cabral, Randy Ortiz, Rejjie Albert, Cary Santiago, Patrice Ramos Diaz, Jojie Llanera and Ivan Isaiah Aseron.

Fashion director Bobbie Carmona, publicist Joyce Pascual and photographer Mark Nicdao and Patrick Uy also donated their services.

The models are the children of the designers' moms and

FASHION 10

JOANNA and Sam dela Rosa Jr., and Marvin Lotus

FERDI Sabastian, Mika Jacob and Carmelea Sanchez-Jacob

BRUNO Mars and Rumel receive trophy for award

MICHELLE Madrigal

RAUL Mejia of Machsmith Chocolates, Alfonso Ty of Happy Philippines

BRUNO Mars is the after-concert party with Jun Hamano and Lito Verdad of Sunsoft High

At Bruno Mars' fantastic after-party

LITO Verdad, JC Echevarri, Cristina Yap, Leonardo Cruz and Nikki Cohen

OWEN Tiamzon

MICHAEL Capco and Brett Lazar

RONALD Pineda of Fairbelt Hong, SM SVP Ricky Lim, SMB Motion head Kat Lima-Abelardo, PLDT SVP Cocoy Enriquez and PLDT VP Fiona Torres

CHRISTINE Jacob-Sandejon and DJ Logan

PLDT SVP Eric Alberto

HENRY Lim Bon Liong of Li Apricots, Rayvin Vergara of Camp John Hay, Cecilio Pedro of Lumiwan Corp, Joey Concepcion of Sir Hagrave, Child Hero of the Year Elyza Penaflorida and Rahael Pena-de-Tejada of HSBC Bus. Co

CECILIO Pedro of Lumiwan Corp.

CLOCKWISE from top, left: SAMANTH Salcedo of Bulkley Lorbec; Sonia Bustos of Bo's Coffee, Cora Ong of CEDO, Mehora and Sis Ping Par of PR Eco Hum, Annie and Boy Lapid of R. Lapid's Electronics and Barbecue; Mark Ruiz of Hagrave; Vice Mendez and Prof Mercano of Yolly Salon Jojo and Bobby Chua of Bobo's Sports; Henry Lim Bon Liong of SL Agritech; Annabelle Wenceslao of Fairtrac Group; and Jon Magsaysay of Pirates Corner

MICHAEL Capco of Tim Tim Hill Inns, who made all the gals swoon and applaud when he jumped onstage and started dancing with the crowd

Many celebrities were spotted in the event, including Raymond and Richard Gutierrez; Bangs Garcia; as much as Baha Mar Quiambao on a rare night out; "Pinoy Big Brother" Teens, Michelle Madrigal, Bianca King and Bruno Emerson, and top 10% council-ed celebrity Carmina Sarahlyn Aurelio, no less, not to mention the gal dads.

Rich their unique nightlife experience, Seventh High augmented both renowned foreign talents, pedangan, Mars and Capco both arrived aboard "love has the party vans and we will definitely be coming back." No wonder they actually left the building past 3 a.m. Hey, if that isn't having a blast, what is, of this?

DAVAO City's Bobby Yu and branch manager Mira Avilla

DAVAO's CSI personnel Sandra Ann Bartolome and president Tessie Sultan

DAVAO City Mayor Sara Duterte and Cor Country head Joseph Peter's

Without batting an eyelash

Maurice Arbaciche

Photos by Alex Tana Hagrave
powered by **HIGH PSAC CERTIFIED**

ing of Citigold in Davao, we are delighted that our clients have an even more robust brand of wealth management," concluded Citi's owners and dealer Ilango.

Citigold owners in Citibank's Savings Davao also strengthens the bank's presence in the Mindanao region.

"Citibank Savings is one of Citi's biggest and most successful investments in the Philippines. By introducing Citigold to clients in Davao, we're responding to the growing needs of our clients and reaching out to more customers across the country," explained Tessie.

With Citibank Gold and Savings expanding around the Mindanao area, you can be sure customers can now enjoy premium product solutions, and best-in-class research and worldwide privileges, all in one bank. That's the Citibank way, it's fun, pahanggan!

The 'Boxings'

The saying goes that every generation searches for its heroes. Well, Ambings, we don't have to look far, in this year, PLDT SVP Nelson awarded 17 of the country's awesome outstanding small and medium enterprise entrepreneur achievers. "Boxings," chosen for their business success and contribution to the country's economic growth and welfare, while pioneering the use of information and communications technology to drive easy to convene and profits, dahlings.

He can you forget that incredible CNN "Hero of the Year" Efren Peñaflorida Jr., much, and brilliant business leader Joey Concepcion, among others like them, pahanggan.

And more than you could list on eyelash, hearing Cecilio Pedro pledged a cool P1 mil. loan to the campaign, no less.

The "Boxing Ako" launch was totally fun and giddy, and had dancers moving in sequin the "Boxing Ako" song by Bico Blanco, launched at the SMDSolls of San Antonio.

PLDT SVP and head of customer Sales and Marketing Group Eric Alberto, in his super speech, said "PLDT recognizes that SMEs are the key to our future, to our country's ongoing sustainable progress and prosperity. As the country's leading telcos, PLDT fulfills a socio-economic mission to be that solid ally by the side of every Filipino SME."

"The 'Boxing Ako' campaign demonstrates the humility of outstanding specials for our Filipino SME sectors. PLDT SME Heroes-able 2010's favored extra genuine heights," he concluded, to the solid applause of the audience, dahlings.

Bravo to all of you, my hearing heroes of today, for the inspiration you have given to tomorrow's world-class leaders in the field of business, pahanggan.

GTI country head Leajh Vitera, Jocelyn Pleasure, Rebecca Estrada and Annalisa Young

NORMAN Lee, Ann de Pena and Salvador Gonzales

RICHARD Gutierrez and Rich Mac Quiazo

ROBIN Herrera and Lori Daniel Tolentino

VERWICE Calderon and Judith Go

BERNADETTE Fernandez and Ramona Fernandez

A country back from the brink

The awesome Discovery Channel commemorates the third anniversary of the Sichuan earthquake with a one-hour special.

Think about it: From the impetus to build a New Olympic Stadium, to the massive Beijing Airport, and the soon? Shanghai World Expo, over the last decade, no other place on earth has attempted complex engineering on the scale that China has. Yes, Chinese engineers have totally bent the laws of physics and built a modern China virtually overnight.

But even the most modern cities are not safe from the hand of Mother Nature, pahanggan, and soon after the devastating earthquake in May 2008 hit Sichuan province in Southwest China, and the country had to rebuild entire towns from scratch.

Discovery Channel's "Rebuilding Sichuan" will show us this unbelievable undertaking when it premieres tomorrow, May 12, 8 p.m., with encores on May 13 at 10 a.m. and May 15 at 12 p.m.

The Sichuan earthquake was the largest catastrophe in 30 years, and the 19th deadliest of all time.

In this two-to-one-hour special, Discovery documents the reconstruction of Beichuan, the town hit hardest by the earthquake.

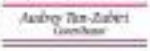
From the mine of tragedy, pahanggan, the "new" city brings with it new hope! Check it out.

GREBY Cui, PLDT CEO Orly Lui, Jovie Ferrer, Sanjay Dutta Gupta Jr., Ambassador Francis Chua and Evelyn del Rosario

HOST Pinoy de Tagle, Ana Kenrick, Gerard Fidler, Hudson Jones, Kat Lima-Abelardo, Mai Lutsa-Lucero, Debbie Atkinson, Angeli Symons and Carlos Magno

Everybody has a mother

Audrey Tan-Zubiri
Contributor



Write us your story:
lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

A DOZEN weeks ago, I received an e-mail from one of my dearest friends. She is based in London, and I wondered if perhaps she had too much to drink as she e-mailed me "Happy mother's day!" on April 3.

It was well over a month before May 8, and I decided for a punch line to her e-mail but there was none—just a sweet note wishing her love on the hubby and the babies.

It was not until her Saturday that we finally got to blogs and those things up. Apparently, Mother's Day is Mothering Sunday in England, and always celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent.

This led me to wonder about the origins of Mother's Day. How is a holiday celebrated all over the world. Why? Because it doesn't matter if you are Catholic or Muslim, married or married, a citizen of this country or that...the fact is, we all have mothers, and that's all you need to join the celebration!

The current Mother's Day celebrations have little to do with the original festivals celebrating the worship of a mother goddess back in ancient times. But from those days in 6,000 BC, we can trace the celebration to the Ancient Greeks and Romans, who set aside special days to celebrate their mothers in fertility and worship rituals (for the Greeks) and Juno (for the Romans).

It wasn't long before Christianity entered the picture, and the originally pagan festival was absorbed into the Christian calendar as Mothering Sunday. During this day, Mother Mary and each "Mother" church were given homes and children and young servants (child labor, anyone?) were given the chance to go home and visit their own families and mothers. On the very home, they would pick flowers for their "mothers." Both the figurative and literal.

Coming together

Fast forward to 1870 and across the ocean, over in the United States, a lady by the name of Julia Ward Howe had just enough of the horrors of the Civil War and the Franco-Prussian War. She began a campaign for women to come together against the war. She promoted the idea of a day, June 2 in particular, when mothers would come together for peace.

Her idea was widely accepted and greatly influenced by Ann Marie Reeves Jarvis, who wanted to have a Mother's Friendship Day for nomination. You can laugh all you want now at that idea, but back then, her efforts at educating women on sanitation and keeping sound environ- ment free at living conditions on a postwar nation were far from pleasant or legion. Unfortunately, she passed on before she could see her life's work truly bear fruit. Fortunately, it was soon found by her daughter, Anna Jarvis.

Anna Jarvis dedicated her whole life to her mother's cause. She wished a day that would honor mothers...not just mothers for peace or sanitation, but a day for mothers, simply for being mothers. She wanted every family to celebrate their mother, whether living or dead. She wrote to countless legislators, businessmen and ministers to encourage them to support what she felt would be a day open for mothers and family relationships.

On May 10, 1908, a church service was set honoring Mrs. Reeves Jarvis. Every person in the service was given a white carnation as a symbol. It was the favorite flower of the late Mrs. Jarvis. And that was the beginning of Mother's Day as we know it today. In 1914, Anna Jarvis saw her mother's dream come true when President Woodrow Wilson declared every second Sunday of May to be Mother's Day.

Statistically, Ms. Jarvis was not a mother. She chose to take care of her sick mother until her dying day over getting married. This goes to show why this holiday is so dear to all of us. It really doesn't matter who you are or what your status in life is; as long as you were loved by that one amazing woman as you were growing up, this day will always be special.

And now, here is where my characters plug comes in. This Mother's Day, May 8, the Makati City Beta Advisory Board (Lou Chan, Jackie Ubalde-Hao, Raja Laurel, Carlo Romero, Dante Zulueta-Legislacion, Monty Padilla, Nanette Medved-Ho, Raye Rupa and Jennifer Lim) came together to produce a wonderful event called "Mothers by Others" at the Rizal Ballroom of Shangri-La Makati Hotel.

VENUSS Laurel and daughter Abi; Hussein Pe with mom Fiqy; Tess Prieto-Valdes and daughter Athena; Charlene Celestino-Tio with son Andre and justice, Tiffany Sy and daughter Natalia (kneeling) Jackie Hao with daughter Carolina; Ria Isava Pe with daughter Mariana; (seated) Joy Zapanta-de Rosario with daughter Isabella; Kaye Tingo with son Kiedy and Kristine; the author with children Adriana and Javier)

Champagne brunch

The doors will open at 10 a.m., and will feature the fabulous champagne brunch of its fine dining restaurant, Red. A Children's Counter Fashion Show also awaits guests, featuring the fine designers of Manila. All eyes will be on the fashion runners of Inna Isava, Pepito Albert, Raja Laurel, Jun Escaño, Randy Ortiz, Ivan Iñaki Jocson, Paul Cabral, Albert Edik, John Dixon, Dennis Lauzon, Patrick Ramos-Cruz and Cary Santiago, while the ladies, yes, you guessed it, this stage is/are/will be/ was/were all ours!

But wait! There's more! In the twists, families can make themselves comfortable in a living room setup where Patrick Sy wants to take their complimentary family portrait. After all, how often does the whole family come together, dressed up and with someone other than the waiter to take the picture?

And, yes, we are well aware that Mother's day is also the Pangalay-Wesley fight, and while I am not allowed to disclose how this will be taken care of, rest assured the men will not have to miss cheering on the Partner!

The best part? It is all for the benefit of the indigent pediatric heart patients of Bataan Beta. That's right, it's 100 percent charity. There is a long list of children who are in the desperate need to have a life-saving operation. It's not a question of whether these kids can survive the heart conditions they were born with, because they can. Given today's advanced technology and amazing doctors, giving these kids a chance to survive is not an option. It's our responsibility.

In part to earn you haven't made plans for Mother's Day, do join us as an honor guest from the comfort of your own area, by calling Lita at 09184164306 for your family's table. I hope to see you there!

Fashion show with a heart on Mother's Day

From page D1

those who come from prominent families. For instance, Bubbi, who dresses up accessories designer Bea Binke will create a dress for her daughter Allegra.

Pepito Albert will design for Mandy Suntay daughter Sabrina.

Lionel, who makes "Inna Binke" theatrical gowns, is secretive about how her daughter Athena will look like. "My clothes are in soft pastels inspired by Beatrix Potter," he said.

Lionel lauded Mothers for Children well for a great opportunity not only to help others but to celebrate a special day as a family.

The charity comes with little towards, explained Jo. Uy will set up a mini-studio for the families to get a free portrait. Emils and Mothers can munch the boxing munch at Conway's, while the kids can get their nails done from Betty Boku. Ivan's and Kisses Specialists Inc. will set up booths so that dads can do their last-minute shopping for mom.

Self-effacing

"We solicit on our own capacity," said Padilla. "We have a specific cause. Every centavo goes to the heart operations. We don't have administrative cost."

"When your families come to Manila, and they have no relatives, the Ramos Inns picks them up in the port or airport and escorts them to the doctor, helps them to get settled until the operation," he added.

"Huge cost work in Bataan Beta has been rewarding. "Meeting with people who have no other goal but to help kids has been inspiring," she said. She recalled a Christmas party for pediatric heart patients, in which she saw the happy faces. "You'll seem to work double time when they've got the healthy color," she added.

Both the moderators and the self-effacement of the board that drive Mothers of Others' very meaningful activities. Theresa Jar-Ileana, group brand manager of Wilkins, the event presenters agreed.

"These moms go beyond caring for their own families to help raise hope for the children in need," she said.

Zubiri said mothers should instill the values of their children. "We are trying to raise our children to be responsible citizens," she said. "We are hoping that with the little things we do, the kids will imbibe the values we are living out and will continue to carry the torch for us."

Padilla agreed. "If you educate a man, you educate a person," he said. "If you educate a woman, you educate a nation. It's the women who will make this world a better place. We were are just supporting."

Heritage tour of Pasig river today

THE HERITAGE Conservation Society and the city government of Manila will launch the river cruise today at 4 p.m. This is in connection with 2011 World Heritage Day, whose theme is water heritage, as declared by Icomos.

Meeting place is at Plaza Mexico, Intramuros (on the Pasig River bank between the Ayuntamiento and Commission of Immigration).

A short talk on "Heritage of Water" will be given by Augusto Villalon. Cost is P688 for non-members, P588 for HCS members and P300 for students.

For reservation, call Sorie Solano of Heritage Conservation Society at 3034494, 5460367, 0917-8888833; e-mail hcs_secretariat@yahoo.com.

'Fly me to Bora' promo

You can explore and enjoy the sun, sea and the famous white beaches of Boracay courtesy of The Andaman Resorts's all-going "Fly me to Boracay" promo, which runs until May 15.

A single room purchase of P1,888 entitles you to a raffle coupon. Fill it up with your name, address, contact details, original receipt number and signature and drop in drop boxes located at the entrance of Andaman restaurant branches. Submissions of entries are until 12 midnight of May 15 only. Raffle draw will be on May 20. The promo is supported by Smart and Boracay Island Water Resort and Spa. Call (02) 8761 for inquiries.

Power Plant Mall shows Mom some love on May 2-8

THE POPUP Plant Mall at Rockwell Center charms moms of all ages, shapes and sizes May 2-8 with special treats, activities and delightful surprises.

Italian lingerie at Grandis Corset on May 2 with Picture Perfect, a heart-warming photo exhibit that captures the special highlights in a mom's life. The store's sweet sought-after photographers—Raymund Isaac, Wig Tyquiengco, Jim Paredes, Inda Bisch, Rose Capili, Edwin Lopulo, John Clear, Mandy Navasero, Edwin Bravo and Pilar Tuason—show off their poignant images until Sunday, Mother's Day.

On May 4, another exhibit: more at South Court. Mom, market of premium washing machines, ovens, vacuum cleaners, refrigerators and fitted kitchens, goes on a showcase of kitchen products and cookware.

On May 5-6, swoop Mom off her feet with a dressed flowers from The Botanist Flower Shop and tiptoe Hand Designs at the concourse and B1 levels of the mall.

On Mother's Day, May 8, take the family to lunch and let Mom get serenaded by a talented trio, then dive at the concourse level. South Court turns into a big leisure and activity space at 1-7 p.m.

Kids can take their moms to do crafts and decorate their very own mome boards, shopping bras and bangle bracelets. Slide gives away cookies made specially for moms while running a workshop on cupcake design. Mothers get special treats from Abe Trevino, The Spa, Dorothy Perkins and Tresses.

Mr. Gomura stages Beauty Backstage at 5 p.m., featuring an expert makeup artist. Moms can get free products and win makeover vouchers.

The Spa is also set to give Moms a soothing break. Let her experience a spontaneous massage session, get exclusive discounts and gift vouchers, and win facilities gift cards all afternoon. End your day with a special date...the Power Plant Cinema gives away free popcorn buckets every hour!

Don't forget to write on the Freedom Boards at the mall entrance and show Mom some love. Call 4961702 or visit Power Plant Mall or facebook /powerplantmall.com/PowerPlantMall.

Manila officials should listen to renewed calls for smoking ban

HEALTHJUSTICE PHILIPPINES, a nonstock, nonprofit organization, recently spearheaded a renewed campaign to make more places to harbor smoke-free, particularly for the sake of children. It cited studies which proved to have results was just as deadly for somebody who just happened to inhale it as it is for the cigarette user himself/herself.

The organization mentioned the 2007 World Tobacco Atlas of the American Cancer Society that identified at least 50 carcinogenic chemicals in second-hand smoke. HealthJustice called on the national government to enforce strictly regulations on smoking and tobacco advertisements in all parks, resorts, public terminals, restaurants and other tourism-related facilities that thousands of Filipino families were expected to visit before a new school year opened.

I hope HealthJustice Philippines would intensify its campaign in Manila. I do not know why the city government cannot strictly enforce the no-smoking rule, particularly among jeepney drivers. As far as I know, Mayor Alfredo Lim himself has been very

THE CONSUMER
Louie J. Beleño

strict in his campaign against smoking in public places. I have not seen any violators in the streets of Manila. Even the jeepney drivers, who are the worst violators, have been very disciplined. I have not seen any of them smoking while driving their jeepneys.

I have been told that Mayor Lim is really out if you are traveling or leaving Manila by the way jeepney-driven bakuna, instantly lighting up a cigarette or throwing away what they are smoking. In fact, a story telling symbol that the sign indicating the Makati-Manila boundary is the cigarette vendor who plies his trade near a ramp away from the Makati side of the boundary.

Getting worse

Besides Amihan ng Pilipinas (EDP), or even the Philippine National Police, should launch an investigation into the anti-smoking drive. Lim, has reached a critical stage. While the EDP keeps assuring the public it has issued more than enough coins for every citizen, the shortage is actually getting worse.

Somebody should try to find out just where all those coins are going. They certainly are not in commercial establishments, even though major chains like 7-Eleven and Robinsons are willing to pay a little more than the actual value of coins in circulation will bring to them.

Consumers are no longer losing just five or 10 centavos in change, but as much as 50 centavos. I was in a supermarket yesterday and the cashier did not even have 25-cents in the cash machine or the cash register. He still owes me 50 centavos till the end. If five or 10 centavos add up to a significant sum, imagine how much additional income stores are getting because they are unable to give 25 centavos or more to customers.

For pet lovers

If, like me, you have a pet that needs grooming, you will be happy to know that now you can have your furry friend tended to at home. Close Paws has just launched a mobile pet salon that offers all the facilities and amenities of a stationary grooming establishment.

The service will be particularly helpful to people whose pets are not very comfortable travelers. Even better is that the salon will not cause any inconvenience to you, as they have their own electricity and water supply, and there will be no fur to clean up afterward, since the grooming will be done in their rolling shop.

Call 0906/708 or 09065 331-0121, or visit Unit P-678 Estrella on Zodiac St., BelAir 1B, Sgp, Makati City, to find out more about the service. Visit their Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/Closepaws.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 10th Chino Roces Ave. cor. Makarombi and Yague Sts., 1204 Makati City; fax 897-9703-90, or e-mail: lbeleno@inquirer.com.ph.

Sports photography workshop May 7

RED OK Managing Events (ROME) and Canon Marketing Philippines will hold a sports photography workshop to be conducted by veteran photo-journalist Ernie Sarmiento on May 7, 10 a.m.–6 p.m., at the Canon Philippines Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Manila.

Sarmiento is a Canon ambassador and currently the chief photographer of Philippine Daily Inquirer.

The one-day workshop aims to give aspiring photographers/videographers and hobbyists a chance to enhance their skills, of the same level as world-class sports photographers in the country.

Sarmiento will talk about sports photography, learning the basics, elements of success, shooting techniques, editing good captions and aerial shooting.

The theoretical phase will take place at Biyaya Lounge in Cesario Filipino Manila Pavilion Hotel, while practical exercises will be held during the Grand Tour of the Pan Taekwondo Championship at Rizal Memorial Basketball Coliseum in Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Vito Cruz, Manila, Manila.

One of the highlights of the tournament is the demonstration of men and women world taekwondo poomsae champions.

Entry fee is P1,500, inclusive of lunch buffet, workbook, ID, lanyard, notes and video tutorials.

A trophy will be given for best photo.

The organizing of the workshop, which is supported by Casimo Filipino Pavilion, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Taekwondo Association, Kia and Informal, will be announced later.

Call ROME (902)-2911132, (0917)-7516855, or e-mail eventsbyrome@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Docu on Pinoy convict wins 2 awards in NY Tribeca fest

By Ruben V. Nepales
Los Angeles Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—"Give Up Tomorrow," a documentary on the trial of one of seven suspects in the kidnap, rape and murder of two teenage sisters in Cebu, won two awards last weekend night at the 10th annual Tribeca Film Festival (TFF) in New York.

The docu won given the Heineken Audience Award and a Spirit and Jury Mention prize at the World Documentary Competition of the festival, which opened April 20.

Audiences voted for the Heineken award representing an image of TFF films. "Give Up Tomorrow" topped all films in the competition categories—Official Narrative, World Documentary, Newsfronts, Spotlight and Cinemania.

Mikhail Gilliss, who directed "Give Up Tomorrow" with Liberty Ejército as producer, will receive a cash prize of $25,000, according to festival organizers.

In the docu, Gilliss, Ejército and cinematographer Joshua Weinstein followed the trial of Francisco "Paco" Larrañaga, convicted with six others of the kidnap, rape and murder of Hungry-and-Jaqueline Ozaeta.

Gilliss told the festival in an e-mail: "This is our first film and we were just so happy to be selected to play at such a prestigious festival. For Liberty and me, that was winning already!"

Yoko's nod

In her blog, inangpogiako.com, Yoko Ono posted: "The docu is a must-see, made with passion and love for justice."

Larrañaga is serving a double life term in San Sebastian, Spain on account of a prisoner exchange treaty between Spain and the Philippines. A chief culprit of the two cousins, he was 19 at the time of his arrest. He was previously held at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa City.

Finally out, Mandy (not his real name) is now studying in Paco's native Spain.

In an earlier interview with the hostages, Ejército assured he was

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Altar date put off

By Marinel R. Cruz

LEGAZPI, Philippines—TV host Mariel Rodriguez said she watched Olivia Lamasan's "Madrasta" many times to prep herself as a stepmom to Robin Padilla's teenage daughter Queenie and Kylie.

"I kept thinking that could happen to me[:] life—[together] personally, make things difficult for first step moms in the beginning. It didn't help that the lead character was also named Mel," she told the business during a press con at the Capitol Resort Hotel here.

Mariel, 27, married Robin, 41, on Sept. 30, 2010. The actor has two sons

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One (1) P100 movie discount coupon	100OFF	30,000
One (1) complimentary movie pass	FREEMOVIE	60,000

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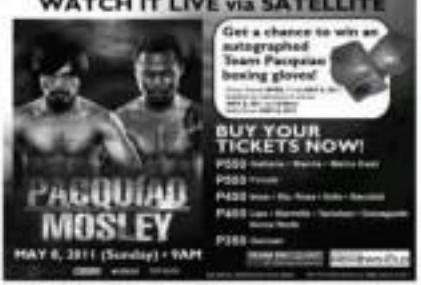

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MALL EVENTS

LIVE IN CEBU

Docu on Pinoy convict...

From page E1

aways that his relation to Larrañaga might throw doubts on the film's integrity. "I know people will question my objectivity, but... I sure, strongly believe that many Filipino prisoners have been denied due process, or environment, or both."

The docu took on years to finish and was shot in Cebu, Manila, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, London, Barcelona, Madrid and San Sebastian.

Collins is the founder of Thoughtful Robot, a production company dedicated to making films that tackle social justice issues. Last year, he, Spiaso and the docu's editor, Eric Metzgar, participated in Sundance Institute's Documentary Edit and Story Lab, which supports filmmakers during post-production.

For one intensive week, the trio worked on "Situs..." and met artist established editors and directors, including Sundance founder Robert Redford, for feedback.

Collins said he got involved in the docu in 2004, when the Supreme Court reversed Larrañaga's sentence to death by lethal injection. "Marcy's brother told me the attention and relief if I would make a web animation chronicling the injustices that Dave suffered during his trial."

Before agreeing, Collins said, he did his own research and came upon a letter by The Unheard SC witnesses who said they were with Dave in Manila when the Chiong sisters were missing in Cebu.

Collins understood that the film might ignite controversy and bring up painful memories for all families involved. "One good is not to heal individual wounds, but to tell the truth," he said.

The '09 received a record number of

DIRECTOR Michael Collins and producer Marty Spiaso

SCAN submissions this year. The two awards that "Dave..." earned in a rendition of sorts for Collins and Spiaso who struggled to keep the project going.

Spiaso said they felt like quitting "every day for six years. And there were I think about four and five to five survived at most 14 years in prison, telling himself each day to give up tomorrow, instead of today."

Altar date put off

From page E1

kids—Ali and Zhein Zhein—with former wife Liezl Sicangco, who lives in Australia.

"I also have a step mom. So I asked myself, 'How do I want her to treat me?'" Marisi said. "It was good that Queenie, Kyle and I have a lot in common."

The Catholic wedding that Marisi planned with Reina, who converted to Islam in the 1990s, was postponed after reviewed Archbishop Oscar Cruz cited possible violations of the Roman Catholic rules.

Marisi said she tries not to dwell on it. "My kids is the ceremony," she relates. "It's a text message... he told me, Tom's worry about your Catholic wedding. What's important is that you're happy."

She said she learns a lot from Reina, but that she also influences him in many ways. "His outlook in life is so serious. With me around... he has learned to relax a bit."

Marisi, with "Happy Ypao Yehey" co-hosts Randy Santiago, John Estrada, Toni Gonzaga, Bianca Manalo and Matteo Guidicelli, joined Pangasinense in celebrating the Pesty Ypao (Feast of the Ascension of the Sun) with a show held at the Lingayen beach front. Capitol Compound.

Marisi said she's happy that some of some Bokarong will be joining the KBB-CBH noontime show starting May 7, to coincide with its executive producer Mario Gallos in the press con. "I prayed for Bokarong and I to work together again," Marisi said.

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1. FAST & FURIOUS 5
2. THOR (3D)
3. THOR
4. WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
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A CHILDREN'S Concert on Mother's Day Concert Featuring the Manila Symphony Orchestra May 8, 7 am Grand Atrium, level 2

Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1 SCREAM 4	2 FAST FIVE	3 THOR
4 TURBOK	5D DIGITAL 3	THOR in 3D
5 WATER FOR ELEPHANTS	7	FAST FIVE

MOVIE TIME

GLORIETTA 4
1: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
2: THOR
3: THOR in Digital 3Ds
4: TURBOK
5: SCREAM 4
6: FAST FIVE
7: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! BEASLEY

GREENBELT 5
1: THOR
2: FAST FIVE
GREENBELT 3
1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR in Digital 3Ds
3: SCREAM 4
4: FAST FIVE in Digital 3Ds
5: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR Digital 3Ds
3: THOR
4: SCREAM 4
5: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS

AYALA CENTER CEBU
1: FAST FIVE
2: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
3: THOR
4: TURBOK

MARQUEE
1: FAST FIVE
2: THOR 3Ds
3: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
4: TURBOK
5: SCREAM 4
6: FAST FIVE in Digital 3Ds

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THOR 3Ds
2: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
3: SCREAM 4
4: FAST FIVE
5: THOR
6: TURBOK
7: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK!

TRINOMA
1: PAKI PAKI MY DR. KWAK! BEASLEY
2: THOR
3: THOR 3Ds
4: WATER FOR ELEPHANTS
5: TURBOK
6: SCREAM 4
7: FAST FIVE

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MOVIE SPECIAL

OPENS MAY 11 AT GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 5 & TRINOMA CINEMAS

MALL EVENTS

GLORIETTA
May 6: Mommy's Heart

GREENBELT
Activate Entrepreneurial Property on Video
May 6: Greenbelt 5 Walk

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Theme of the Month: Celebrate Mother's Day
Mother's Day Concert Featuring the Manila Symphony Orchestra
May 8, 7 pm: Grand Atrium, Level 2

SOMERSET OLYMPIA
Somerset Olympia Mother's Day Celebration
May 13: Mommy's Heart
May 14: Mommy's Heart

MARKET! MARKET!
Mother's Day Concert Featuring the Manila Symphony Orchestra
May 8, 7 pm: Grand Atrium, Level 2

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Cebu Parks Style Contest: Parks for Everyone, Nature Inspires, Nurturing the Family and Nature Inspired by Your Mother: May 6: The Terraces

TRINOMA
Acoustic Afternoon Sessions: Your Wednesday Mixes
Mother's Day Weekend Extravaganza: May 13 & 14 (SM Megamall): May 13 & 22 (Mall 1), 14 & 21 (Level 1 Atrium Ring)

MARQUEE
Free Dance Workshops for Kids & Their Tita Chi Showdown: April 8 - May 13 (Mommy's Tuesdays & Thursdays)
4:30 pm & 5:30 pm at Level 3

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A bitterTweet story

DOLLY WOOD

Daily Arrow Correspondent

CHEYENNE was shocked at Crissy Rotondo's explosive swoop aboard estranged couple Aiko Melendez and Hakuan Mayo Patrick Meneses in the show "Pepasuerte" on TV5. She presented copies of an alleged exchange of tweets between Aiko and a guy friend posted on their Twitter accounts.

Based on the tweets, Aiko and her guy friend were scheming to make it seem that Patrick has a guy lover. The dashing mayor's jaw fell as he browsed through the tweets.

He has filed libel charges against Aiko and several cyberbashing netizens.

Hacked!

I asked Aiko for her sentiments on the exposé. "I am in a state of shock," she lamented. "Patrick knows my Twitter password. I am not accusing him of lessening those divorce messages. But how in the world were they able to access my account if they didn't hack it? It's weird because some close friends of mine like Jaime, Kid de Castro and Ogie Diaz have been blocked from my account even if I didn't block anybody."

Aiko has been through hell and back in the name of love. Now her lover is in limbo. How much more pain must she endure before she gets to paradise?

It's sad that matters have gone out of hand. Former partners in the domestic front will now clog it out in the battlefront.

Who's meddling?

If Patrick is indeed gay, only he and Aiko know for sure. There are things that happen between a couple inside the bedroom which no body can ever be privy to. As an old Pinoy saying goes, *Make up makidaan sa away mag-asawa ka lang*.

So is he or isn't he? Did she or didn't she?

Aiko is in good terms with her other exes, Jomari Yllana (dad of Andre) and dad Marlon Jabbaz (dad of Marlliana). But it didn't happen overnight.

Sweet gone sour

There comes a point when pain and love give way to friendship. Time will eventually heal the bitter divorce of a once romance gone sour. Hopefully when the wounds have healed, Aiko and Patrick can be friends, too, for the sake of what once they've shared.

So, is he or isn't he (gay)? Did she or didn't she (steal those Twitter direct messages)? While we're at it, maybe we should also step back and remind ourselves that love is not an all-or-nothing affair like Aiko and Pat for that matter).

That even if it was really Aiko who sent those kind messages, it's not for us to judge her. We cannot think her thoughts nor feel her feelings. Different people.

Aiko is just trying to find love and happiness. Let's not add to her pain. Let's not be judgmental. Let's not be hypocrites. Let's not be cruel. Let's not be unkind. Let's not be unforgiving. Let's not be unloving. Let's not be unkind. Let's not be unforgiving. Let's not be unloving.

Aiko is just trying to find love and happiness. Let's not add to her pain. Let's not be judgmental. Let's not be hypocrites. Let's not be cruel

ENTERTAINMENT

LAUREN Young.

New TV star vows not to be a copycat

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

LAUREN Young has established no space. The 17-year-old Kapamilya star told Inquirer.net Entertainment that she had no plans, whatsoever, of watching the original 2000 CINE drama series, "Wala sa Puso."

She top bills the remake of the 1990s soap, reprising Gloria "Via" Pereira, the role first played by Charlene Borromeo.

"I was only 3 when it first aired (1997-1998)," Lauren explained. "I'd rather not watch the CINE because I don't want to copy Ms Charlene."

She has vowed to tackle the role her way. This is the remake's fifth week. "I'm putting a little spice to the role," she said. "She is supposed to be sweet, loving and caring, but I'd like her to be more assertive. I've added some ne into her."

Lauren co-stars with dreamboat Enrique Gil in the series. "He's easy to work with," she said. "But romance is out of the question—can't let it get in the way of work. I'm accustomed."

She is also in the cast of the indie horror comedy "Tandalangas: Palayain sa Hudas si Barrangan," with Mart Escudero, Janice de Belen and Eugene Domingo. "It's my first comedy," she noted. "It was fun making it, but I realized that comedy is not my forte. I'm not funny. I prefer drama."

E-mail bayaninsandiego@hotmail.com

Dubai docu on Pinays

DUBAI-BASED FILipina lifestyle publication Illustrado Magazine has announced the online release of the initial documentary film "Filipina on Top," which premiered as its annual Women of Substance event held recently at the Grand plus Ballroom in Jumeirah Emirates Towers.

Directed by Kamil Rosas, veteran of the Israeli Film Competence of the Middle East International Film Festival (MEIFF) in 2008, "Filipina on Top" includes a discussion on its women's programmes and sexual harassment.

Illustrado Magazine made a random survey of 100 Middle East-based Filipinas aged 20 to 50—75 percent of whom said they have experienced sexual harassment of some kind. "Clearly, something's wrong here and we need to wake up and do something," said editor in chief Lolaine Cho-Benitez. Call 1-9714-380-0547.

SHOW TIME

DAWN Day June 2011 goes onstage on May 6 at the SM Mall of Asia open grounds. Scheduled to perform are Gloc-9, Imago, Sweetnotes, Diamond Girls, Frances, Skeleton, Gwyn Markson, The Dawn and Lou Bonnevie. There will also be resource speakers and booths to help spread public awareness on among the various issues. The concert is open to the public. Gates open at 4 p.m. Log on to dawnday-doctors.com

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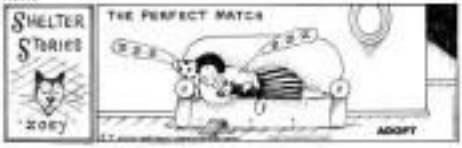


SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOG BY MARA CELI

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCES DRAKE

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You will meet new faces in old new places today. Explore them in a fresh quality to make things interesting and by next year, each has interesting.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Another calendar might be a mental today, decide which could surprise you. Or to how you might be trying to find a person? Anything could happen today.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be caught off guard by a group meeting today to comment. Alternatively, you might surprise others with unexpected news or conclusion of different behavior.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Whether feelings of intuitive might start out today. Despite your desire to protect one are going along with the party line, you probably don't agree in some ways. Hang in there! So you'd like.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) People, especially in group settings, will surprise you today. Perhaps they are rebellious or looking to make their independence. You might see by new face to you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Do not oppose authority this week. Someone that maintains might catch you off guard. People have little patience today? Or it was, or an

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Creative experimentation in hand might delight you today. Similarly, unexpected opportunities or personal interests or activities might fall in your lap.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have quite an ego — you can be might commonly see today. Or the opposite could happen (although less likely): you suddenly might learn to put your shoe of something. (Ouch.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Partners and close friends are full of surprises today. Expect a few dollars. If you have plans, be flexible. Unexpected events might demand more space or freedom in the relationship.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Competitive nature, some outside personal appointments and staff shortages are not helping things go their way. Prepare at work today. Temperamental tomorrow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) There is an accident prone day for children in your partner or you can see how. Be patient with a

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Something unusual will grab your better senses today. Small spellbinder might book down, minor breakups, work news or perhaps just surprise company will stop by.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more programs or www.sudoku.com

Answers to previous puzzle

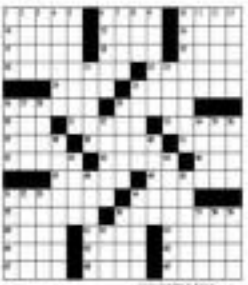
4	2	6	7	9	1	5	3	8
8	5	1	4	2	3	9	6	7
3	9	7	6	5	8	1	2	4
9	3	2	1	4	5	6	7	8
6	4	8	9	3	7	2	1	5
1	7	5	8	6	2	3	4	9
5	6	4	3	8	9	7	5	1
2	8	9	5	7	6	4	8	3
7	1	3	2	1	4	8	9	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	2	6				5	3	
8			4		3			7
			9					4
			1					8
			7					2
		4					5	
	6					2		
1					7			
5	9	3	2		8	7	6	1

Difficulty Level ★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Opening Today

Tambok

Directed by Topel Lee; stars Carlo Aquino, Cristine Reyes, LJ Moreno, Ryan Eigenmann, Melissa de Guzman, Joe Barrameda

Young couple (Aquino, Reyes) inherits and moves into an old mid-twentieth that tobacconist by all sorts of malevolent spirits. Straw hunters describe it as a "sexy and scary" flick. The title refers to the mythical boiler, "built on a convergence of three roads, considered unlucky, a variant of evil." Lee recalls: "The challenge was how to make it cinematic and action packed in spite of the condo's limited space."

ROBERT Pattinson in "Water for Elephants"

Water for Elephants

Directed by Francis Lawrence; stars Reese Witherspoon, Robert Pattinson, Christopher Waltz, Hal Holbrook, Richard Brake

Sir student (Pattinson) joins the circus and falls for an animal trainer (Witherspoon), despite the jealous ringmaster (Waltz). Tehmat Times' Tony Medley called it a "The Notebook"-style tearjerker." Denver Post's Lisa Kennedy states: It's "not the most spectacular show on Earth. But it is a show nev." Total Film's Ben Stubbs hails it as a "romantic, enjoyable, old-time romance ... [with] a period-perfect Depression-era/ghetto pachyderm."

Scream 4

NEVE Campbell in "Scream 4"

Directed by Wes Craven; stars Neve Campbell, Courtney Cox, David Arquette, Hayden Panettiere, Emma Roberts, Brenton Thwaites

Sidney and most survivors (Campbell returns to her hometown, but killer Ghostface is hot on her trail. Guardian's Philip French thinks "It's fun, but more clever-clever than fiendishly ingenious." IndieWire's Eric Kohn says it "lacks the confidence that would make it a masterpiece, but it — just about — succeeds." Rolling Stone's Peter Travers differs: It "offers nothing more than a series of gory deaths that grow tiresome with repetition."

Fast & Furious 5

Directed by Justin Lin; stars Paul Walker, Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Jordana Brewster, Tyrese Gibson, Sung Kang

Professional thieves emerge to rob a Brazilian drug lord in one final heist. Wall Street Journal's Joe Morgenstern notes: It "puts lots of mileage from a combination of high-octane (and) worn-for-the-jeans of physics." San Francisco Chronicle's Mick LaSalle agrees: "The first sequel. [in the series] ... that isn't an enhancement or a travesty."

Up, down TV's stellar escalator

NBC's "TODAY" show has many viewers all over the world, the Philippines included (it's seen on the new TalkTV channel). The morning show's hosts, principally Matt Lauer and Meredith Vieira, have been working together for several years, but reports have it that major changes may be made in the months or weeks to come.

Vieira, rumored to be leaving the show, perhaps to take care of her husband, who has a major medical problem. Who will take her place? The majority of the program's viewers are plugging for news regional host Ann Curry, as Americans whose cool competence has been an asset of the show for years. Some people may feel that she's too sweet and nice and lacks the cynicism and verve that an early-morning show needs, but she has our vote, too.

More changes

The changes don't stop there. Word has it that Matt Lauer himself is thinking of moving on—unless the pro-Damion spa biz for from $16 million to $20 million! That's a hefty raise, but some viewers feel that Matt is worth it, because he's nothing less than the "face" of the "Today" show.

What if the producers don't like? News has it that Ms Curry could team up again on another show with former "Today" co-host, Katie Couric. CBS' nightly news anchor for five years, who is being released due to low show's dipping ratings.

Other looming changes on US TV include the re-arrest planner running show host Regis Philbin, in a new program that could end up competing with the ongoing show of his former co-host, Kelly Ripa.

Reports also have it that Paula Abdul's new show, "Live to Dance," may not get picked up for a second season.

What about Piers Morgan, who has replaced Larry King on CNN's main weeknight interview? He had a great start, but some of his subsequent telecasts have been quite "underwhelming," because they've been mere rants into on his past interviews.

Larry King was no genius, either, but he did his work without flash or bombast, and has thus come off as the last real interviewer.

On the other hand, Morgan has built his reputation on his personality purchased for getting under people's skin. Now that he does an interview a day, his reputation of "Jerk" kicks has turned out to be predictable, thin and even threadbare, as the thrill is gone.

Of course, the biggest news on TV has

Viewfinder

Nestor U. Torre

Big boss sacks erratic hunk

By the Entertainment staff

TV ROGUETY Rush was consistently late for all his appointments with former studio. That is, if he showed up at all.

Finally, Big Boss got fed up and sacked him. Rit can now add an employment to his long list of problems.

A source seriously suspects that Rit is now drugs. Rit allegedly got depressed because fame proved elusive even though he had made trips to the starring coach.

RUSHES

Another erratic talent

Perky Actress' erratic behavior sometimes to baffle observers. She purportedly gave eyewitness breakdown on the set of a new project, for example. Though the star billed to only minor story, Rit would arrive early on hour late. A dresser the making!

Apparently, Rit gets hurt re very infinite, punishing luxury video to send them the hos- tion, creative of Rich Boyfriend's dad. Jost.

Or maybe she's just reaping woe as law enforcement characters. Rhythm prime dominate law- ly she's been dishing out scandalizing performances.

Spoiled brat

Who knew that Hunky Ballzalzer is a prima donna in the making? He is said to demand those opened longer when whenever he is grouped with peers.

And when he doesn't get his way, Rit throws a tantrum and refuses to show up to gigs—until his benefiters, out of sheer exasperation, give in.

Impasse

Sensitive story it, but according to other sources, Entrepreneurial Personality has reached an impasse with Big Bosses.

JOHN Lloyd and Angel Locsin of ABS-CBN's "Imortal" shot some final scenes at the Mackinlay Suite of the Manila Hotel.

But several weeks, Rit was negotiating with CF over a troubled project. Rit presented several reforms and suggestions to CF who, true to form, bit slightest and reportedly removed them. Rit recently resurfaced to impose stricter guidelines, but CF took offense.

KAPUSO star Aljur Abrenica celebrated his 21st birthday with 50 orphaned children at the Reception and Study Center for Children in Quezon City on March 29.

Mariah twins

NEW YORK—Mariah Carey and Nick Cannon celebrated their fourth anniversary with another milestone—becoming parents to a baby girl and boy. Carey's representative, Cindi Berger, confirmed that the singing superstar gave birth Saturday at an undisclosed hospital in Los Angeles. The babies have not been named. AP

Cinderella Goldberg

VIENNA—Whoopi Goldberg is in Austria to promote the musical "Sister Act." She dipped off her high-heeled sandals at Vienna's Rosenhügel Theater on Friday where she revealed she would have to cancel during a media preview of the musical, which opens there in September.

JENNYLYN Mercado

She starred in the 1992 movie version of "Sister Act." AP

Not bullied out

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island—Emma Watson, the British actress who played Hermione Granger in the "Harry Potter" film series, denied on Friday reports that she was bullied out of Brown University. Watson wrote on her website: "I have never been bullied in my life and certainly never at Brown." AP

Beyonce backs out

NEW YORK—A video game maker says Beyonce didn't play fair in a deal for a game structured around her.

Gate Five LLC has sued the Grammy Award winning singer in New York, saying she made a lucrative agreement in June to a game called "Starpower: Beyonce," then demanded a new deal and abruptly abandoned the project.

Gate Five said the company's lawyer didn't immediately respond to inquiries.

The lawsuit says Beyonce's representing shows a hacker story and destroyed Gate Five's business. Gate Five says it lost its nearly $7 million investment in the venture and more than $100 million in potential profits, and 70 people lost their jobs. AP

Fergie: Not true!

NEW YORK—Although People has a lot of things the women's rights during her being-married hiatus from the Black Eyed Peas, being a judge on Simon Cowell's upcoming "X-Factor" show isn't one of them.

There's recent reports that Cowell was considering the powerhouse singer for the Fox talent competition, which is due to debut in September. In a recent interview, Fergie vehemently herself from speculations.

"It's a very committed job that you have to put your time into and I don't think I'm gonna have that much time, but I love Simon," she said. AP

Actor seeks Ph.D.

HOUSTON—James Franco has seen a spot in a University of Houston creative writing program.

The outwardly confirmed that the actor was accepted for the school's doctoral program in literature and creative writing. Creative writing program director James Kimrey told the Houston Chronicle that Franco planned to enroll in September 2012.

Kimrey says 20 students are chosen from about 400 applicants each year. AP

Top of the Talk Shows

For those who missed last week- end's TV gabfests (and why we are envied, if we are envied):

- Pedro Penduko on tainted boyfriend Aljur Abrenica: "We like each other's company. He is my best friend." (Shared na ba sa inyo?)
- Jennylyn Mercado on her breakup with Dennis Trillo: (via text message): "So- apparently ang sabi- ng sabi- per after ko- sa'll de- liman." Okay, is- originally!
- Nico- chaner Gutier- on giving birth to his boy Dominic Isabel- "Nung nanga- ko- young pak- tito, 'Ate- on nang- sabi- baki- ko ... so- buong- sumpaan." (It gets less joyous, for better or worse.)
- Raven Grimley asked about his plans after rehab: "My plan is to- pray- nothing of monster — those I don't ... I'll do it only- time ... accountable only to God. I've accepted my mistakes and forgives myself." (Mr. knows- at least- ours people who- should also forgive them.)
- Pinoy Pennsylvanian- is- being woman- really linked with her. (Sec. Ilocano- ver: "I've- never met him- so how- can I be dating him?" (Or- ngu- naman.)
- Anne Curtis on being the first Filipino celebrity to have over one million Twitter followers: "I'm so happy! Thank you to everyone who- chose to follow me, in spite of the nonsense and random things I put on my Twitter account!" (That doesn't- speak well of them, does it?)
- Lea Salonga, asked about her- long- flung fling with Phil Younghusband: "Sorry- talaga! Ganu- kong magkwento- pero- parang- iron- pasyente- ako- sa- mga- doctor- eh- magsalita!" (We- need- i-)
- Judy Ann Santos on Claudine Barretto's- celebrity- treatment- at- her- figure: "Marian- always- sang- Jamir- Margaret- ng- Annabel- Lee- ako- parating- sang- Ik- ser- ayaw- ako- kong- ang- anak- ng- Annabel- Lee- ako- parang- ang- dating- nakapasa- Hindi- ma- ke- pasabog- diggy- in- his- 'sang- pawani- ng- Jun, Charlene!" (Kanya- kanyang- kapal- yan.)

Hihi- talk, E-Live, Showbiz- Central, Pika- Pasya, and- Allan- Pelicano- pa, and- others!

KIMERLY- Mercado- as- Sister- Mary- Patrick

ANNE Curtis

Superman threatens to renounce citizenship

LOS ANGELES—Superman, in the latest issue of Action Comics, said he intends to renounce his US citizenship in a speech before the United Nations. "I'm tired of having my actions construed as instruments of US policy." The Man of Steel said in a story in the issue. Disgusted commentators noted that the superhero had long proclaimed his creed for "Truth, Justice and the American way." The Middle Eastern writer Jonathan Lord said, "If Superman doesn't believe in America, then he doesn't believe in anything." Reuters